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THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2011

Residents up in arms over 250 'stray' horses: 'IS THE LAW BEING ENFORCED?' ANIMAL CHARITY DEMANDS

ASSURANCES have been given by both the RSPCA and Bridgend County Borough Council that 250 horses, which suddenly appeared in fields at Court Colman, are being fed by their owner.

Residents in the area discovered that the horses had been put into local fields in the area stretching from Court Colman to Llangwydd.

The horses are believed to belong to a major horse breeder who has been contacted by

JAYNE ISAAC reports

both the council and the RSPCA.

The fields belong to a Court Colman landowner who has also been involved in talks with the charity, the council and the police.

Residents have been lobbying the council and the RSPCA to take action, amid claims that the animals had no food or access to water.

At least one horse has died and the body left on the land for at least a month.

Photographs have been taken by residents

showing the corpse in various stages of decomposition.

Things came to a head last week when a meeting was held on site with the horse owner, the RSPCA and council animal welfare staff.

Some local residents were also present.

The RSPCA states that its staff have been dealing with the welfare needs of the horses in Bridgend for some time and will continue to do so.

They said that they are in contact with the owner

of the horses, although they decline to name him, and would continue to be in contact.

An RSPCA inspector made "multiple" visits to the area last week and on Sunday, he spent four hours checking the condition of about 200 horses.

He declared them to be healthy and stated that they had access to food – 40 bales of hay – plus water and shelter.

The inspector was back again on Monday to find that the owner was present with his animals and further hay was delivered.

Work is also being done to repair the fences, as a number of horses have been straying onto local roads.

When a GEM reporter visited the area on Monday morning, three horses were on the road and about 30 others were gathered around the gate leading into one of the fields.

The inspector had also attended a meeting with local police about the

horses and will continue to liaise with them. The spokesman added that monitoring of the horses will continue.

There was a similar situation last year in this area when horses suddenly appeared in local fields overnight and then were taken away in the spring.

The RSPCA confirmed that it has been dealing with hundreds of horses throughout south Wales, including the Llanelli area, where the local authority threatened to impound them.

The horses disappeared the day before the council was due to act.

The problem of stray horses in south Wales is a huge one for the charity, which has already dealt with a number of major incidents nationally in recent years in which hundreds of horses have been taken into care.

Finding places for large numbers at one time is a massive headache for the charity which has to place them in a series of sanctuaries and refuges across the country.

Residents of Court Colman, who do not want to be named, have claimed that initially horses were reduced to eating straw contained in piles of manure in the fields.

They have also claimed that some of the horses have strayed onto the nearby M4, but the council has said it has not received any reports of these animals being on the motorway, where they could have caused a serious accident.

A spokesman for BCBC said that the council's animal welfare officers had been working with the RSPCA and were fully aware of the concerns raised by local residents.

The judge said that Baker, a man with no previous convictions, had taken part in a catastrophic

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 11)

Patriotic pupils of Porthcawl!



Pupils at Newton Primary in Porthcawl were dressed up for St David's Day, when our photographer Malcolm Nugent visited.
(SEE NEXT WEEK FOR MORE PICTURES!)

Axe falls on Bridgend family support charity

ALL the funding for a charity which helps families with young children has been axed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Bridgend Home Start was told last year that its £35,000 annual grant from BCBC would be cut – staggered over two years. This year, they lost £15,000, and the budget approved by cabinet last week includes chopping the remaining £20,000.

This will be cut from April 2011, leaving the charity with no council funding whatsoever.

The charity was using the money from the

council to fund its work in the Bridgend-Pencoed area.

Money from the Welsh Assembly Government is continuing for the new financial year, and this funds its work in Cornelly and in the three valleys.

Senior manager Sally George said they were "disappointed" that the cut had gone through, as a number of councillors had expressed support for their work with families who have children aged five and under.

However, the charity

is using its own reserves to keep services to families going for the new financial year. After that, the position is unclear.

She said: "We are hoping to find alternative sources of funding during the next year so that we can keep everything going."

The charity has two full time workers in Bridgend – Sally and her colleague Lynn Thomas.

It has helped 107 families this year and has 60 trained volunteers who work with families needing support. At the moment, 56 families are each receiving support.



Horses looking for hay. (photographed last week).

COURT HEARS OF 'CATALOGUE OF ABUSE'

Bridgend man (55) is jailed for sex offences

A sex abuser has received a 10-year extended sentence at Cardiff Crown Court.

Mr Justice John Griffith Williams directed that 55-year-old ex-railway signalman Colin Baker of Bridgend receive a seven-year custodial sentence and be put on licence for the full 10-year period.

He also banned him from working with children for life, ordered him to register as a sex offender indefinitely, and the judge also imposed a sexual prevention order.

Baker admitted 14 charges involving indecent assault, and sexual assault, said by prosecutor Caroline Rees to have been committed on girls over a number of years.

The judge said that Baker, a man with no previous convictions, had taken part in a cata-

logue of abuse" and there was evidence of grooming.

"There is no indication that you feel guilty and that you tried to minimise your offending. There is also no evidence of any true remorse," said the judge.

There was, he continued, no alternative to a prison sentence of some length.

"I am satisfied there is a high-level risk of further offending," said the judge.

The fact that he had no previous convictions was of limited mitigation and the only full mitigation was his clear guilty plea.

Ms Rees said Baker committed the offences for his own sexual gratification.

When found out, he labelled one of his victims a liar.

The offences, she said, came to

light last year. The police were contacted and the victims were interviewed.

When arrested, Baker said: "Things are going from worse to worse." The court was told he made partial admissions but tried to minimise his guilt.

At a later stage, he said he had no excuse and was glad that he had been found out.

He also told the police he was at a loss as to why he behaved in such a manner.

His counsel John Ryan said: "He is not a predatory paedophile. It is clear he needs to engage with professional services.

"He acted on impulse and there were no threats and no payment. For five years, he served in the army."

The judge said he had to pass a sentence which reflected Baker's total criminality.

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Please join the Walk for Life in Porthcawl!

WITH at least seven people in Porthcawl currently having received a kidney transplant in recent years, it is no wonder that the town has a very active committee attached to the Kidney Wales Foundation.

The purpose of the committee is to promote awareness of the need for organ donors and to raise funds needed for equipment, research, treatment and support for kidney patients and their families.

On the agenda this year is bringing to the community's attention that March 10 is World Kidney Day, when the message is to take care of your kidneys by keeping fit and active, maintain a low fat, low salt diet and don't smoke.

If you are diabetic, keep control of your sugar levels, as over half

of the people with diabetes will develop kidney damage.

In line with keeping fit, the residents of Porthcawl and visitors to the town are invited to join in the annual Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life on Sunday, March 27, starting at the Seagull Inn off West Park Drive at 11am.

The route goes down the seafront as far as the fairground entrance and returns back up the seafront to the Seagull Inn – about 3km.

We need as many people as possible to participate in the Walk for Life, so please show your support and join us for what will be a fun day for all.

Registration from 10.30am entry is by sponsorship form or by donation of £3 on the day (children under 12 free). For more information or sponsorship forms, contact Jean Schofield on 01656 786669.

Gail Ralph,
(for Porthcawl KRUF)

GEM prizewinners sit down to lunch!

IJUST wanted to thank you, belatedly, for the £20 prize I won last September in The GEM.

Due to family circumstances, we were unable to use the voucher until this week, when we had a lovely lunch at The Sycamore Tree, Colwinston, in the Vale.

Our hosts, Angela and Andy, were very welcoming and couldn't do enough for us. The meal was delicious and we hope they do well in the area, they deserve to. Thanks again.

Steve and Helen Hooper, Rhoose

More volunteers are wanted for Armed Forces Day

On behalf of the Armed Forces Day (AFD) committee, I would like to thank all who attended the 2010 event in Cardiff Bay and for making it a day to remember.

Once again, we were blessed with fine weather, which resulted in an increased attendance – not only from the AFC community – but also from the general public.

Although planning is in its early stages, it is the intention of the Armed Forces Day committee that the main event, on Saturday, June 25, will be centred on Bute Park Coopers Field, Cardiff City centre and Cardiff Castle.

There will, of course, be a number of other events in the preceding week that will be held in the castle, City Hall and Cottrell Park Golf Club.

The programme of

events in broad outline, subject to confirmation or change, is as follows:

June 20 – Flag raising ceremony, Cardiff Castle, veterans and standards in attendance.

June 22 – Armed Forces Day golf match. Details and application forms are on the website.

June 24 – Beat Retreat Cardiff Castle (details on website).

June 25 – Public parade through Cardiff city centre; short drum-head service; possible medals/veterans badges presentations, entertainments and events, military capability demonstrations.

Volunteers are being sought to take part in the event.

Full details on www.armedforcesday-wales.co.uk **Dave Morris** (Telephone 01446 772043, email davecp-morris@tiscali.co.uk) daive@armedforcesday-wales.co.uk)

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Craig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Why should borough council taxpayers pay more for less?

IREAD The GEM (February 17) regarding the Bridgend Council's upcoming budget, that '...the new budget includes £3.5million for increases in pay and prices...' yet it intends closing valuable community libraries (including Nantymoel) and other important, much-needed services across the borough.

The council has its ideas in a twist! Instead of allowing its own pay increases to take priority, it should spend the money on vital services which would then not need to be closed.

If any surplus remains at the end of the council year, small bonuses might perhaps be allocated

ed, although such surplus would still be better spent on providing 'extras' to much-needed services instead – regardless of which so-called 'pot' the money comes out from.

It should stop paying bonuses to its executive officers, particularly in the current economic climate, when normal folk are having to cut back drastically just to meet basic bills.

The council should also stop sending its councillors to pointless and unnecessary 'conferences', particularly away from home ground.

Such cuts would help to fund not only our much-needed community libraries, but also greatly assist other services that are currently being affected by the council's decisions.

Why should we, the council-tax payers, struggling with our own finances, be made to pay out

more while receiving less for our money, particularly when knowing of the 'fat-cat' salaries and bonuses already being received by high-ranking (but not necessarily harder-working) officers?

It's an absolute outrage. If we ordinary citizens were to withhold paying our council tax, the council would start legal proceedings against us, yet they have no conscience in depriving us of the services for which we have to pay dearly, like it or not.

Who gives the go-ahead that allows councillors and council executives the right to raise their own salaries and be paid excessive bonuses as a priority in their budget – over and above the vital services they should be providing to the community instead? It is all very wrong.

(Name and address supplied)

'Please keep a check on this silent killer' – says Bridgend MP

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, recently saw first hand the role community pharmacy plays in delivering expert public health services with a free blood pressure check at the House of Commons.

The event, attended by over 40 MPs and peers, was organised by leading community pharmacy chain Lloydspharmacy, in partnership with British Heart Foundation, and aimed to raise awareness of the importance of regularly monitoring your blood pressure.

One in three adults in the UK has high blood pressure and many people aren't aware they have the condition, which means they are



ABOVE: A simple test that can save lives.

increasing the chance of becoming seriously ill if they continue with an unhealthy lifestyle.

Often dubbed 'the silent killer', high blood pressure can have no symptoms until it has become extremely severe. Left unchecked,

it can lead to a stroke or heart attack. If left untreated, it can also damage other organs such as kidneys and

eyes.

Madeleine said of the initiative: "People are working harder, longer hours and are living more stressful lives. We know that the public are taking unnecessary risks by failing to get their blood pressure checked and it's commendable that Lloydspharmacy offers such a vital health screening and lifestyle advisory service."

"Pharmacists have a significant role to play addressing public health issues in the community. I hope this encourages my constituents to follow suit and take advantage of the convenient health services which are available in their local pharmacy."

Ronan Brett, Lloydspharmacy's head of professional and external relations commented: "We are delighted that

Madeleine Moon MP was able to attend the event to hear about how community pharmacy is leading the way in providing accessible health services to the public in their local communities.

"At Lloydspharmacy we have been championing public health initiatives in our pharmacy consultation rooms since 2003 and have conducted millions of tests, from blood pressure to diabetes. These

and the many other pharmacy services we offer help support the public in managing their own health and wellbeing.

"Our work can allow other health professionals to focus on more acute conditions and something as simple as a quick blood pressure check can stop someone from developing a serious health problem in the first place."

Planting seeds to help the Samaritans' work

THE Llantwit Major Friends of Bridgend Samaritans are celebrating a successful year and will soon be handing over a cheque for £1,000!

The Friends have organised a number of events to raise this sum, and the next will be a 'Seed Swap' organised by Transition Llantwit.

A spokeswoman said: "This is your chance to check through last year's seeds and sort out your spares.

"Bring them along to the seed-swap, and see what treasures you can take home. Spare plants and cuttings are also welcome."

She added: "Don't worry if you've

nothing to bring, you are still welcome to come and pick up something to inspire you.

"There will be information on gardening and seed-saving, activities for young and old, and an opportunity to chat with other gardeners (or would-be gardeners!)."

Entry is free – as many plants and seeds! Delicious refreshments will be available, with all donations to Llantwit Major Friends of Bridgend Samaritans.

The seed-swap takes place on Saturday, March 12, from 10am–1pm, in the Heritage Centre (downstairs of Llantwit Major Town Hall).

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

AUGUST DATE FOR PLAY AREA

ON behalf of Bridgend Town

Council, may I give an update on the progress relating to the replacement of the children's play area at Highland Place; and the greater national campaign concerning severe safety problems surrounding types of electronic gates.

All submissions in respect of grant aid for the new play area have been made to various

sources and we await decisions over the coming weeks.

I remain confident that we are on course for the opening of the play area by August and everything will be done to meet that target.

On the wider issue of national legislation for extra safety on electronic gates, we have received an assurance from 10 Downing Street that our petition for change is actively being considered and we will continue to press for answers at an early date.

Coun David Unwin,
Leader of Bridgend Town Council

Raffle offers a hamper of Fairtrade goods



PORTCAWL Fairtrade Partnership (PFP) held a free raffle at the Co-op in Porthcawl on February 26, when everyone who bought a Fairtrade item was given a raffle ticket to win a hamper of Fairtrade goodies.

Two members of PFP, Lorna Willmer and Cate Warlow, with her daughter Mia, are pictured – helping to raise awareness of Fairtrade.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20–25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
03 Thur	05.41	9.1	17.59	9.1
04 Fri	06.19	9.4	18.35	9.4
05 Sat	06.47	9.5	19.07	9.6
06 Sun	07.21	9.8	19.33	9.6
07 Mon	07.49	9.7	20.02	9.5
08 Tues	08.13	9.4	20.27	9.4
09 Wed	08.46	9.3	20.53	9.2
10 Thur	09.12	9.0	21.28	8.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Maesteg man (38) sexually assaulted young girl on bus

A TEENAGE girl on a bus was sexually assaulted by another passenger, as she travelled from Bridgend to Cymmer.

Clifford Duckworth (38) put his hands between the victim's legs, said prosecutor Christine Jones at Cardiff Crown Court.

Duckworth, of Maesteg, admitted a charge of sexual assault and was jailed for a year and also ordered to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

Mr Justice John Griffith Williams said: "You subjected your victim to a thoroughly unpleasant attack. It is clear, unsurprisingly, that you caused her real distress."

"That you were drunk

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

and disinhibited is not mitigation. It is concerning that yet again you have offended while drunk."

Ms Jones said that the 17-year-old got on the bus in Bridgend after a shopping expedition with friends.

Duckworth got on and sat in the centre of the back seat. He became involved in an argument with an elderly woman next to him.

"He then began talking to his victim and said he had just come out of prison after serving a sentence for armed robbery. He kept on about this and smelt strongly of drink."

Duckworth nudged the girl with his elbow and she told him to stop and telephoned her

mother. As the bus approached the Sainsbury's roundabout, he stroked her right cheek before sexually assaulting her.

One of her friends began crying at what had occurred.

The victim's mother told her to immediately call the police.

The driver contacted them and they arrested Duckworth on the bus. Everybody involved was distressed and the defendant, with his flies undone, was speaking in a slurred manner.

He later said he had four pints of lager and had drunk vodka.

What he had done, he added, was totally out of character because he was not a "touchy feely" kind of person.

The court heard he had previous convictions of causing criminal damage, and robbing a man of his wallet in a lane in Bridgend.

Meirion Davies, representing him, said: "I readily accept it was a disgraceful incident, but when arrested, he didn't prevaricate and admitted everything without equivocation.

"He is at a loss to understand why he did it.

"For what it's worth, he is extremely regretful and appreciates how the victim must have felt."

Sadly, said Mr Davies, Duckworth's problem had always been alcohol.

He added: "It must, of course, be a custodial sentence. It is his first offence of a sexual nature."

SPEEDING traffic is a problem in the Coity Fields area of Bridgend, Coun Haydn Morgan told Bridgend Town Council.

He said that he had been approached by residents of Charles Street, Vernon Street and Morfa Street at a PACT meeting, and they were concerned about traffic problems, including parking and speeding.

He said that Acland Road and High View should be turned into one-way streets to improve traffic flows because of the parked cars.

Coity Fields 'has traffic problems'

BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL

Wildmill signs

STREET signs placed in the Wildmill-Cemetery Road area of Bridgend are wrong – that's the conclusion of Bridgend town councillors, who have been asking for new signs for Tremgarth in Wildmill.

The council received a letter from Sian Hooper, service manager for Streetscene at BCBC. She said that there had been confusion about where Cemetery Road ends and where Tremgarth begins.

She said that Cemetery Road ceases at the railway bridge.

When Wildmill was developed, the road from the railway bridge was extended to meet

Quarella Road and was named Tremgarth.

WILDMILL SIGNS

Unwin said that the road leading down from the railway bridge to Wildmill was still Cemetery Road. He said that the name for the new houses in that area was Maes y Felin, and not Tremgarth.

He added that if the council itself was confused, he wondered what was happening to postmen and delivery drivers, not to mention emergency vehicles trying to find the correct house.

"This is a nonsense," he added.

Coun Peter Foley said that misleading signs have been put up and should be removed.

"This is a mistake. The Tremgarth sign should be removed and moved to a correct location."

Coun Bob Burns pointed out that the census was about to take place and this confusion should be resolved in time for that.

The issue will be taken up with the borough council.

Arsenal memorial

THE memorial erected to the workers killed in accidents during the war at the Arsenal in Bridgend is to be taken over by Bridgend Town Council.

The original slate plaque was installed by Bridgend Civic Trust but they felt that it was of a poor standard and a better one has now been made.

The trust asked the town council to take over the plaque and be responsible for its future maintenance. Charles Thorp, secretary, said that it was designed to be very low maintenance, so should not be a burden to council taxpayers.

Coun David Unwin said that as the civic trust was a voluntary body, there was no guarantee it would be around in future years to look after the plaque, and it could be left in limbo.

"It is timely for us to take it over," he added. "There is no expense involved at present. We already own the war memorial, so it makes sense."

"Maintenance would be minimal and we will add it to our insurance cover. We should support the trust." This was agreed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRIDGEND Headteacher Mrs Carol Clint with the Mayor, her consort, and an old boy!

CRICKET PAVILION

REPAIRS

RENEWBURY FIELDS

£11,000

WORK

£57,750

REPAIRS

£550,000

AND

BANDSTAND

£75,000

REPAIRS

Bridgend boy is given the lead role on BBC TV show



LEFT:
Young
Ioan
Lloyd,
who will
soon be
seen in an
episode of the
Casualty
series on
on BBC
TV

A ten-year-old Bridgend boy, is eagerly awaiting his appearance in a lead role on a prime time BBC television show.

Ioan Lloyd has been busy filming for an episode of *Casualty*, which is due to be aired at the end of April.

Filming took eight days and Ioan "thoroughly enjoyed" his time in the limelight.

He said "I loved filming my scenes. Everyone was so down to earth and helpful, and I learnt loads from the other actors."

Ioan is represented by the Big Talent Agency.

He attends Wales Millennium Centre's Young Company, in partnership with the Big Talent School's classes for seven-11 year olds in West End-style singing, dancing

and acting.

The agency's co-principals and agents, Leigh-Ann Regan and Shelley Barrett-Norton, said they were "delighted" with Ioan's success.

Leigh-Ann commented: "I knew when I spotted him in his school nativity play that he was a star.

"This is a great start for him."

The agency starts a new Bridgend juniors class at Ysgol Bro Ogwr for seven-11 year olds on March 11.

It is open to all young people aged three to 21 looking to work professionally in TV, film and theatre.

For more information, visit the website www.thebigtalent.co.uk or telephone Shelley on 07886 020923.

House burglary: man charged

POLICE in Maesteg are investigating a house burglary on St Cynwyd's Avenue between 3.45am and 6.45am on Sunday, February 20, when a 32-inch LCD television, a handbag and its contents were stolen.

Police have charged a 42-year-old local 0800 555 111.

Police appeal after assault

POLICE have renewed an appeal for witnesses in an assault at Street Nightclub in Porthcawl during the early hours of December 27, when a 31-year-old local man required hospital treatment for a head injury.

Contact PC Lloyd Mordecai at Bridgend Police Station on 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Send your news and views to us at:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Putting good citizenship into practice at Tondu...



Madeleine Noon and Esther Foster.

AN event organised by Esther Foster, the BCBC co-ordinator for education for sustainable development and global citizenship (ESDGC), at Tondu Primary School, was aimed at teachers from nursery, primary and secondary schools.

MP Madeleine Moon reported: "I sampled the delicious food on offer and toured the many interesting stalls which provided information and ideas for teachers to take back to their schools.

"There were stalls from Fairtrade Wales, Sussed, Slapping Skins, RSPB, Out to Learn Willow, Plan it Eco, Sustrans, Rent-a-Chicken and many more.

"The county borough supplies department offers schools an interesting and innovative range of resources to begin helping our primary schoolchildren build awareness of how to deal with and hopefully reduce the problems facing many adults."

"There was one particular stall that really inspired me, which was County Borough Supplies.

"Their stall had a display of soft toys which

encouraged children to explore the parts of the body, also cigarette and beer can shaped soft toys to be used in lessons to explain the dangers of smoking and drinking.

"They also had puppets that helped children to speak about their experiences of bullying in school and for anger management.

"I was shocked to read in the county borough's health and social care report that residents of Bridgend have higher levels of stress and poorer health, higher levels of physical and mental illness, mental health problems and substance and alcohol abuse compared to other localities across Wales".

"The county borough supplies department offers schools an interesting and innovative range of resources to begin helping our primary schoolchildren build awareness of how to deal with and hopefully reduce the problems facing many adults."

"There was one particular stall that really inspired me, which was County Borough Supplies.

"Their stall had a display of soft toys which

Firefighters' chip pan fire warning

LOCAL firefighters want to warn residents about the best way to tackle chip pan fires, after a recent incident in which a woman suffered burns.

When they arrived at the home in the Vale, the occupier had used a damp tea towel to smother the chip pan, and prevented the fire developing, but had sustained burns...

Firefighter David Thomas, a retained firefighter, used his trauma care training and gave first aid to the lady before she was taken to

hospital by ambulance with burns to her hands.

Cowbridge watch manager Keith White said: "The lady did the right thing putting a damp towel over the chip pan, and therefore preventing a serious fire. However, please ensure that whenever you do use a damp towel that you leave the chip pan in place on the stove."

"Don't remove it, leave it in place until we arrive.

"Just isolate the cooker supply, get out, call 999 and get the fire service out!"

A 15-year-old Bridgend girl has won her way through to the regional finals of a nationwide talent competition.

Lexi Richmond, of Broadlands, won a place in the Britain Does Variety Welsh finals at Newport on March 12.

Lexi is a talented singer who can sing in different styles. She is the daughter of Steve and Cath Richmond and has a 29-year-old sister, Samantha Long.

A pupil at Bryntirion Comprehensive, she has been going to dance and drama classes since she

Porthcawl's moment of fame at UNESCO



If Porthcawl has a 'signature' photograph, it surely has to be the waves breaking over the harbour light (above). In recent years, this image has been a staple for pictures editors on the national press, whenever they want to illustrate stormy seas and high winds hitting the UK.

Malcolm Nugent took the above example and told The GEM: "Some picture editors believe it is a lighthouse, rather than a harbour light, so they are imagining a much taller building which makes the waves seem huge!"

However, Malcolm was surprised to get a request from UNESCO to use his photograph in one of their own publications, and this time it has been used in a different context. It features on the front cover of a programme (RIGHT) for a conference on, among other things, the effect of climate change on the world's landscape.

Porthcawl – a symbol for rising tide levels and the remorseless advance of nature... Fame at last!



Choir bring along Brahms and two pianos to Porthcawl church



COR Bro Ogwr (above) will be giving a performance of the Brahms Requiem – using the London Edition which features two pianos – at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl, on Saturday, March 12 at 7.30pm.

The pianists will be Glen Crooks and Jeff Howard. Glen, who is the choir's usual rehearsal pianist, won a scholarship to Oriel College, Oxford, to study music. He is now the pianist for various

choirs in Port Talbot, Bridgend, Porthcawl and Swansea.

Jeff studied at Cardiff University and the Royal College of Music in London. Since graduating, he has pursued a freelance career as an organist, pianist, singer, coach and conductor including work with Bryn Terfel and the Royal Philharmonic.

The two soloists will be Rhiannon Llewelyn and Timothy Nelson. Rhiannon is currently in her fourth year of study at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and in the autumn will continue her studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Timothy is now a member of the award-

winning choir Only Men Aloud and has also been involved in a number of TV and radio programmes as a soloist.

He too will commence studies at the Royal Academy in London as a post-graduate student.

The conductor is Edward Rhys Harry, who also conducts the Atheneum Singers of Warminster and the London Welsh Male Voice Choir.

He is a lecturer at the Royal College of Music and Drama.

The concert will also include a selection of Welsh music, as well as the Brahms.

Tickets are available from choristers or from 01656 653326.

Lexi (15) lines up talent title

A 15-year-old Bridgend girl has won her way through to the regional finals of a nationwide talent competition.

Lexi Richmond, of Broadlands, won a place in the Britain Does Variety Welsh finals at Newport on March 12.

Lexi is a talented singer who can sing in different styles. She is the daughter of Steve and Cath Richmond and has a 29-year-old sister, Samantha Long.

A pupil at Bryntirion Comprehensive, she has been going to dance and drama classes since she

was eight and is now hoping to join the Bridgend Youth Theatre.

Lexi is having her voice trained by a professional singer and also wants a career as a singer.

The regional finals should attract a large crowd and the audience will decide the winner.

There will also be judges who will comment on each performance. The event will be recorded on a DVD, which will put onto YouTube.

If she makes it through to the UK finals, Lexi will sing on the stage of the O2 arena in London.

Timothy is now a member of the award-

Local primary schoolchildren get ready to go for Olympic gold in the 'World Games'

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is organising one of the largest primary school sports events in Wales next month.

The Sony (UK) schools games will take place at Bridgend Recreation Centre and Newbridge Fields and the official launch took place last week, attended by special guests, including pupils from each school and representatives from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Paralympics athletes Nathan Stephens and Aled Davies, Olympic athlete Steve Brace and the Mayor all took part in the important draw, deciding which school will be representing which country in the 'Olympic-style' games.

Maesteg Comprehensive School's street dance group, Pencoed Flyer's gymnastics club and Llangynwyd boy's choir all took part in the launch.

Sport Wales and Sony (UK) are supporting the event which will bring together more than 1,000 primary schoolchildren.



ABOVE: Maesteg Comprehensive School's street dance group 'flag up' the competing countries.



ABOVE: The Mayor makes the draw.



Photographs by MALCOLM NUGENT



ABOVE (left to right): BCBC's head of learning, Hilary Anthony, Nathan Stephens, Aled Davies, Mrs Gloria Teesdale and the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Colin Teesdale.



BELOW: The Pencoed Flyers unmasked!





Maendy YFC retain their top entertainment title

ABOVE and RIGHT:
It's smiles all round as the entrants line up for the camera at the Glamorgan Young Farmers Clubs competition.



MAENDY Young Farmers Club recently retained their title by winning the Glamorgan Young Farmers entertainment competition with their production 'Seaside Postcard'.

As always, the seven Glamorgan Young Farmers Clubs gave a spectacular weekend of entertainment. The standard this year was particularly high, with each club scoring over 60 (out of a possible 100).

Ben Humphrey, director and actor, from Worcester, had the difficult task of judging. During his adjudications, Ben gave an entertaining performance himself with anecdotes and highly commended each and every club. He stated that the quality of each performance equalled if not excelled that of amateur

dramatics.

The top three YFCs in the competition were Gower, Maendy and Gelligaer, with all members on tenterhooks until the results were announced. Gower gave a fantastic time travelling to Swansea Grand Theatre, Ieuan Rosser, chairman of Maendy Young Farmers, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have won the competition, having had such a high quality weekend of entertainment; it was so close between all Young Farmers Clubs.

Will Elliott from Gower YFC won the best actor award and Stacey Thomas from Maendy YFC gained best actress award. Gower YFC also achieved the best technical and best director awards. Connor Furneux, Gower YFC and Cherish

Bevan, Bridgend YFC, shared the most promising under-14 award and the judges award went to Hannah Thomas from Llantrisant YFC, with a spectacular singing performance.

Maendy Young Farmers Club will now go on to Swansea to represent Glamorgan in the Wales Young Farmers entertainment competition on March 12-13. Maendy will be performing in the Sunday matinee performance at Swansea Grand Theatre. Ieuan Rosser, chairman of Maendy Young Farmers, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have won the competition, having had such a high quality weekend of entertainment; it was so close between all Young Farmers Clubs.

"I would like to thank all members for being so dedicated to weeks of practising, all the support we have received from

the club leaders and, of course, Richard Harris the scriptwriter and Richard Western, the director, for allowing all this to happen."

Miranda McGinn, chairman of Glamorgan Young Farmers Clubs said: "A fantastic weekend of entertainment is a testament to all involved. Each club gave their all and offered the audience a spectacular evening of song, dance and laughter.

"Young Farmers is a fantastic opportunity for young people with an interest in rural activities to get together to socialise and compete in an environment that increases confidence and skills. It is a great foundation for education and for going into employment.

To find out how to join Glamorgan Young Farmers and your nearest club, contact me by emailing yfcwales_glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk or calling 07899 026176."

V A Newman Glass Quiz League results

AMONG the games played on Monday, February 21, the one between Royal Oak Nomads and Llangwydd Arms reached near perfection.

The latter were unbeaten before then, while Nomads had only lost one league match, and that was to Llangwydd.

This match was virtually decided in the written section in which Llangwydd achieved the maximum of 32 points to Nomads' 29.

The individual round saw both teams get full points and after that Llangwydd only answered one question incorrectly, winning the match by 59 points to 51.

A truly remarkable performance was thoroughly enjoyed by both competition.

Oldcastle A beat Tyrisha Royals 60-39, having picked up quite a few bonus points.

Mackworth Arms were surprisingly beaten 50-44 by Laleston Inn A and Maesteg Catholic Club won 49-41 at the Llynfi Arms, who had to play with one man short.

Tondu Railway Club got their first points of the season, beating Coyahey Wanderers by 48 points to 42.

In Division Two, Six Bells lead at the top is down to two as they had yet another loss, losing 51-38 to Pheasant Gamekeepers, who stay joint second with Cabo Roche, who had a 39-35 away win to Laleston Inn B.

Pheasant Poachers had a good result against Heol-y-Cyw RFC, winning 50-36. Oldcastle B did well to beat Llangeinor AFC 46-42 and Oddfellows Arms had their second draw of the season, 42-42, all at Pyle RFC.

HERE are your four teasers:

1. On January 24th 1986 Voyager II became the first man-made object to visit which major planet?

2. The landlocked country of Swaziland is bordered by South Africa and which other country?

3. Which club did Glenn Hoddle get promoted to the FA Premier League in 1993 as player manager?

4. From which plant is linseed oil obtained?

A Rudge
(Hon Sec BGQL)

ANSWERS:
1. Titan.
2. Lesotho.
3. Swaziland.
4. Flax.

Schools take the Formula-1 test!



ABOVE (left to right): Chris Lucas, James Pritchard, Kieran Lewis and Ewan Thomas – Team Inferno from Maesteg Comprehensive School with their car.



ABOVE:
Emily Fraser of Cynffig Comprehensive School with the Blue Team's car.

LOCAL pupils were among students from 15 south Wales secondary schools who went to the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea to take part in a high speed competition.

The annual F1 Schools Technology Challenge is a UK-wide competition, and Tata Steel Europe is a sponsor.

Schools are encouraged to enter racing teams who have to design (using CAD/CAM software), build, run a simulation test, and speed trial a

model Formula-1 racing car.

Each model is propelled along a 20-metre purpose built track using tiny compressed air canisters.

Winners of each regional competition go onto the UK Finals, being held in London, with the UK final The winner goes on to compete in the world finals.



Porthcawl Comprehensive's 'Team G'
Photographs by Peter Knowles Photography



Team Red from Cynffig.

CHARITY PANCAKES
TABERNACL Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend, will hold a coffee and pancakes morning on Shrove Tuesday, March 8 from 10am-12pm. Entrance £1 including coffee and pancake (children admitted free). Various stalls. Proceeds towards LATCH (Welsh children's cancer charity).

Read your GEM online at bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

POSTPONED BOXING DAY FUN RUN TAKES PLACE IN BETTER WEATHER FOR RUNNERS



PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THE ice and snow that was still on the ground on Boxing Day caused the postponement of the annual 48-furlong fun run, organised by Porthcawl Lions Club.

However, on Sunday, February 27, the race went ahead and attracted more than 60 entries. The weather was far from fine but the 'world record' went as the winner, David Rees from Swansea, recorded a time of 24 minutes, 50 seconds – taking a minute off the previous best.

The winner of the female race was Garrella Maine from Porthcawl Runners in a time of 32 minutes, 24 seconds.

Full details of the names of participants and their times can be found on the lions website at porthcawlions.org.

Porthcawl Lions would wish to thank everyone for taking part, the runners, the stewards and the staff of the Hi Tide. All proceeds raised will be donated to the NSPCC.

The Lions certainly kept themselves busy over the weekend. On Saturday, they were in John Street supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care, selling their well-known daffodils.

During the day they raised more than £600 for that worthy cause.

Porthcawl Lions will be carrying out their stewarding duties at the Town Council Pancake Race on Sunday, March 6, at 12.15pm at Newton Green. Teams can enter on the day.

Further details from Porthcawl Town Council on 01656782215.

"Do you have some space to store some of our equipment?", asks Lion Andrew Collier. Apparently Porthcawl Lions now have a considerable amount of gear plus books and it all takes up storage space.

They are looking for somewhere in Porthcawl such as a garage, large shed or something similar. If you can help then, please telephone Andrew on 01656 784939.

Anyone interested in joining Porthcawl Lions is asked to telephone Don on 01656788583 or speak to any Lion.

The first book sale of the year held at the Seabank hotel raised more than £600.

The next weekend book sale is on Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, again at the Seabank.

DAVID RICHARDS



ABOVE: Porthcawl Lions welcome to Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, and her consort Mr Bobbie Lewis.



ABOVE:
Ruth Birch (running in aid of the Poppy Appeal) signs in with the Lions.



RIGHT:
The Mayor and the Lions' president, Ralph Anslow, with two of the younger competitors.



Winner, David Rees.
First veteran male was Anthony Powell.



Sharon Ford was the first female veteran to finish.



Jay Gonzales was the first junior male.
Rosie Plimmer was first junior female.



Sandville manager Gary Banks signs in for the run.



ABOVE:
The Mayor of Porthcawl with the first three runners to finish.



Son threatens to burn down mum's house

A YOUNG man has been given a suspended sentence at Cardiff Crown Court for threatening to burn down his mother's home.

He told her: "I'm going to get somebody to do your house, and I'm going to burn it down with you in it."

Mark Burnett (21) of Bridgend, pleaded guilty before Vale magistrates to threatening to commit criminal damage and was committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was jailed for a year, suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work.

A restraining order was also imposed, preventing him from approaching his mother.

She had told the court earlier: "He badly needs help to control his anger. He never actually started a fire, and afterwards he said he was sorry. I'll try my best to help him. He

AJ SICLUNA

has never assaulted me, but he has frightened me."

She did not reveal her latest address.

Prosecutor Rebecca Griffiths said there had been "domestic problems" with Burnett.

At around 11.15am on January 10, Burnett went to his mother's home in Bridgend and stood on the doorstep calling her a slut and a bitch.

"He was very angry," said Ms Griffiths.

At the house were his mother and his brother, and they were aware of Burnett kicking the front door and they feared it would cave in.

He was repeatedly asked to leave, refused and said: "I'm going to get somebody to do your house and I am going to burn it down with you in it."

He left, but his mother believed he was capable of carrying out the threat.

In an impact statement, she told the police she could not carry on with such an experience, and now wished to leave the area.

She added: "I'm having to look over my shoulder all the time," and said she was in constant fear.

Burnett told the police that his relationship with his mother was sometimes good, sometimes not, and claimed that she had insulted him.

The court was told that he admitted that while in custody, he had said: "I've got to get out of here, I've got houses to burn down."

He also said that if he was released on bail, he would obtain petrol and burn down the house.

He was said to have convictions for 11 offences, three of which related to his mother and involved criminal damage and affray, and threatening to damage property by burning down her house.

His counsel, Peter Harding-Roberts, said: "He has significant health problems."

He said that when he met him before the hearing, he was "quiet, calm, polite and respectful." He added: "His behaviour didn't match that of the offence, and he informed me that he loves his mother to bits."

Mr Harding-Roberts said she had tried to visit him when on remand, but was not allowed to.

"He accepts he needs help, specifically from a psychologist, and he has an insight into his explosive anger. Many people say ridiculous things which they do not mean.

"If the court sends him to prison, what good would it do? He is a genuinely very, very unhappy young man and he has inflicted injury upon himself.

"He feels he is in a cycle of hopelessness."

the classroom taking part in play, sport and exercise and learning about nature in our beautiful surroundings.

Family values are an integral part of life at St. John's. Our boarding house is family-run providing a real 'home from home'. Children learn to live, work, share and play together, learning how to grow up being kind and considerate to others. Having mentors in our older pupils is a natural way of learning this for our younger children.

Our senior school scholarship record speaks for itself. More than half of the children who leave us at the end of Year 8 do so with a scholarship to the senior school of their choice, testimony to our ability to prepare children fully for the next stage of their education.

St. John's welcomes children of all abilities and offers a range of scholarships and means-tested bursaries (up to 100%) to ensure that a wide spectrum of youngsters can enjoy the benefit of an independent preparatory school education.

The next Open Morning takes place in Tintern, Chepstow on Saturday 12th March from 9.30am - 12 noon. All welcome. If you would like further details, please contact Mrs Anne Etchells, Registrar on 01291 622045. E-mail: registrar@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk or visit the website: www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk

Vale AM is set to meet new Ambulance chief

THE Vale's Assembly Member has arranged a meeting with the regional director of the Ambulance Service following the case of a 92-year-old woman who had to wait for almost two hours for an ambulance.

The woman, who fell over in a Cowbridge supermarket last month, had fractured her hip and needed an operation.

At the time Vale AM Jane Hutt said she had been shocked by how long the woman had been forced to wait.

Ms Hutt said: "After calling for an urgent meeting with the new regional director Nick Smith, I can confirm that I will be meeting with the Ambulance Service along with Coun Gwyn John, on

March 16 and will report back on the outcome."

Coun John from Llanwit Major visited the Ambulance Service HQ in Cwmbran last year, and said that at the time response times in the Vale appeared to be improving.

However, he told The GEM that the latest case might be a sign that things were slipping back.

Coun John favours a 'rural Vale emergency dispatch point' with two ambulances available because the Vale is out on a limb.

The Ambulance Service has said it will not comment on individual cases, but if a family contacts them, they will be happy to discuss a particular case.

Farmers' efforts raise cash for two worthy charities

A TOTAL of £2,000 has been split and donated to two Welsh charities – thanks to NFU Cymru members in Glamorgan.

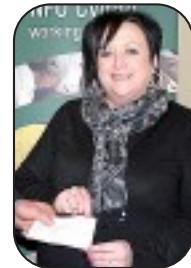
Representatives from the Stroke Association, Wales, and Velindre Hospital were presented with a £1,000 cheque at the recent Glamorgan NFU Cymru County conference.

On presenting the cheques, Andrew Oliver, Glamorgan NFU Cymru County chairman said: "On behalf of Glamorgan NFU Cymru, I am privileged to be able to present these cheques to two worthwhile causes.

"A special thank you must go to all NFU Cymru members and staff in Glamorgan who have over the past 12 months organised and taken part in many events, including a golf day and a NFU Cymru county luncheon."



ABOVE and RIGHT: Andrew Oliver presents cheques to Bridget Stadden, the Stroke Association's fundraising manager for Wales, and Andrew Morris, head of fundraising at Velindre Hospital.



ABOVE and RIGHT: Andrew Oliver presents cheques to Bridget Stadden, the Stroke Association's fundraising manager for Wales, and Andrew Morris, head of fundraising at Velindre Hospital.

YOUNGSTERS BESIEGE RUGBY STARS IN LEEKES STORE SIGNING

TWO Welsh rugby stars were kept busy at Leekes'

Llantrisant store last week, signing autographs for a host of young admirers.

Props Adam Jones and Gethin Jenkins popped into the store last Thursday, for the event held in association with Under Armour, to celebrate the RBS 6 Nations Championship.

The young fans visited the store as part of their half term rugby session with Fairplay Rugby, which works with local schools and communities to encourage children between the ages of 6-10 to take part in fun rugby sessions.

Jon Bunyan, organiser of Fairplay Rugby, commented: "This was a great opportunity for the youngsters to meet two of today's rugby greats. You could see they were really inspired to meet Adam and Gethin and they played with renewed vigour when we

got back on the pitch in the afternoon!"

Store manager, Glyn Morgan, said: "We had a great turnout on the day, lots of local people came along to get Adam and Gethin's signatures on

their rugby memorabilia. It was great to welcome rugby fans into the store and to see so many boys and girls getting involved in our nation's game."



A Word from the Head'

At St. John's, we believe that education is much more than academic achievement.

Widely recognised by experts, the importance of a rounded experience, provides a positive and useful education. We embody this ethos at St. John's ensuring all children in our care are given the best possible start to provide for the best possible future.

We understand and value every child for their individuality so our approach to childcare in the Nurseries reflects this philosophy. We want to make sure that each child is nurtured and their capabilities are fostered so that they enjoy school and build on their successes.

Children from 3 months to pre-school age enjoy a relaxed, caring environment, surrounded by a fully qualified team. Our mission is to ensure that every single child is given the opportunity to realise their full potential, this process begins in the Nursery with children learning through play in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for learning.

Children attending any of our three Day Nurseries are guaranteed a place in the Pre-Prep Department at St. John's in Tintern, Chepstow, where they continue to learn in a number of different ways. They learn to swim in our own swimming pool, dance and act in the Hall, learn to count, read, use a computer with time outside of

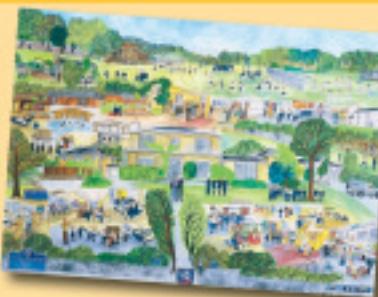
St John's on-the-hill Chepstow

A Co-Educational Day and Boarding Preparatory School with a Pre-Prep and Day Nurseries welcoming children from 3 months - 13+ years

OPEN MORNING

Saturday 12th March 2011

9.30am - 12 noon



**Tintern, Chepstow NP16 7LE
Telephone: 01291 622045
Fax: 01291 623932
www.stjohnsonthehill.co.uk
email: registrar@stjohnsonthehill.co.uk**



VALE MP's VIEWPOINT**Happy ending to a tense situation in chaotic Libya**

THE return of Richard Foscolo from Libya heralded one of the most frustrating and satisfying weeks since I was elected last year.

It was an extremely tense time. Angie Foscolo and her family were worried, alarmed and anxious about Richard, who was stranded in Ghani, a Libyan desert oilfield.

My first contact with Angie Foscolo came on Tuesday afternoon when she tried to contact me at the House of Commons.

As it was half-term, my time was more flexible and thankfully, I had more opportunity to chase various people about the issues. Clearly by Tuesday evening, the situation was getting worse.

The only contact the family had managed to make with Richard over a 48-hour period was a two-minute telephone conversation and a short e-mail from his friend's computer.

The communication links with the desert oil field were negligible – to both the family and to the Embassy in Tripoli.

It was obvious to the family that although Richard maintained he was well and not troubled; they could tell that he was extremely worried.

From conversations with the Foreign Office and Richard's employer, we had calculated that security personnel had left



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

the site. We had received reports of looting – where computers and mobile phones were being stolen and we were concerned that normal communications for food and drink were running low.

By Wednesday, we felt that the only way to increase the pressure was to use the press and media.

Angie Foscolo is a very private person and to champion an issue on UK News was well outside her comfort zone but she did amazingly well.

She pressed all the right buttons to draw attention.

Local and UK newspapers and network television covered the events, increasing pressure on Richard's employers and the Foreign Office.

I spoke countless times to the Foreign Office and communicated with the Minister directly.

By Thursday evening, a network television company

received an anonymous call to say that Richard had been transported to Tripoli. A few hours later a similar message came from elsewhere. Was the news too good to be true?

Calls to the Foreign Office wouldn't confirm anything, although we were optimistic from the tone of their responses. Without confirmation, we decided to keep it to ourselves until it was confirmed.

At 3.30am, Angie received a call from Richard, who had landed in Gatwick. We were ecstatic!

The series of events were nothing short of a rollercoaster. I want to use this opportunity to pay tribute to Angie and Richard, to their parents and to their wider family for the way they handled themselves; no panic, just persistence and a determination to draw attention to those who at that time had been ignored by the FCO.

I have no doubt that Angie, Richard and family played a significant part in forcing the government to change tack and to ensure that the Prime Minister and William Hague took personal control.

There are many lessons to learn and I highlighted the Foscolo case on the floor of the House of Commons earlier this week.

The PM recognised the facts and said that he would make changes to the system.

Win tickets for the big Wales v England match at the Millennium Stadium!



COMMUNITY PARTNER

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It was obvious to the family that although Richard maintained he was well and not troubled; they could tell that he was extremely worried.

From conversations with the Foreign Office and Richard's employer, we had calculated that security personnel had left

are Wales and England. I've got no doubt that the lucky winner will have a great time – let's just hope The Dragons win!

McDonald's franchisee Huw Thomas said: "As a fan of Welsh football, I'm pleased to be able to offer one lucky winner two tickets to this historic game.

"As a proud supporter of McDonald's Football Accreditation Scheme, which helps to develop grassroots football in the area, I hope it's not too long before we see more players from Barry make our national team!"

Huw Thomas runs the Cardiff Road McDonald's restaurant in Barry, and will be cheering on the Welsh national team as they battle it out in this highly anticipated UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying match – and now you could be a part of the action too!

The two sides last met in 2005, and being such a highly anticipated game, the match is already sold out, with both sets of fans making the journey to Wales' national stadium to watch the teams compete for the vital three points.

McDonald's has been the community partner of the Welsh FA and the Welsh Football Trust since 2002 and supports the FAW Club Accreditation Programme and the FAW Football Leaders Award – both initiatives aim to provide quality grassroots football through improved coaching and facilities for clubs across Wales.

Ian Rush, McDonald's director of Welsh football said: "Next to being on the field playing, there's nothing quite like sitting in the stands among thousands of other passionate fans, watching a game live. That atmosphere is even more electric when the two teams

face off in a charity coffee morning in aid of Atal y Fro, which helps families break the cycle of domestic violence."

Barry's Mayor Coun Len Taylor's charity coffee morning this Saturday, March 5, from 10.30am-12.30pm, will be in aid of Atal y Fro, which helps families break the cycle of domestic violence.

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'Is the law being enforced?' – animal charity

(CONTINUED) area requiring them to remove and safely dispose of the body of a horse that has unfortunately died.

The statement went on: "Officers have visited the location and have confirmed that, at present, the animals have access to food and water, closely in conjunction with partner organisations."

"We are providing advice and guidance to the person believed to be the owner of the horses and have reminded them of their responsibilities under current legislation."

"In addition, formal action is ongoing with a local landowner in the

area requiring them to remove and safely dispose of the body of a horse that has unfortunately died.

He said that police officers had been involved in meetings with the landowner and other partners like the council to discuss the problem and to try and get it resolved.

Complaints about horses straying onto the country lanes around Court Colman have been received and have been dealt with by officers.

Residents say that the first 30 or 40 horses arrived at the end of November, and in early December, a resident rang the RSPCA to state that no food had been put in with them.

At that time, they were told that the horses would be moved by the owner within two weeks, but on December 20 they were still there.

More horses were subsequently dropped off, boosting the total to about 250. They occupied four fields altogether in that area.

On January 23, a resident took a picture of the dead horse, but it was still there last week, a month later when she took another picture.

Residents are concerned about the way in which the whole incident has been handled by the council and the RSPCA, and feel that strong action should have been taken from the outset, including checking that food and water were available.

Maureen Edwards, of Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, said that she wanted the situation across south Wales to be investigated, so that this could not happen again.

"We seem to have horses being dropped off willy nilly with landowners being unaware of their arrival on their land. 'Nobody is above the law, and I want assurances from the council that all of these horses are being properly looked after and also that they have the passports which are required by law.

"Each horse should be micro chipped. Is this particular law being enforced here?" she demanded.

RIGHT:
An angry Lynne Bowen-Jones and two of her young pupils, Maya (on left) and Hannah, examine the vandalised playhouse at Heol-y-Cyw school.



REPORT
by
PHILIP IRWIN

Vandals damage school playhouse

THE headteacher of Heol-y-Cyw Primary is "horrified" after vandals targeted the school last weekend and damaged a playhouse that had only been donated last December.

It was on Monday (February 28) that Lynne Bowen-Jones and her staff discovered the damage. She told The GEM: "This playhouse was donated because vandals had come into the school and smashed the previous one.

"I am so furious about what has happened. We are only a small school and certainly not a rich one."

She added angrily: "I can't believe that anyone in the community here in Heol-y-Cyw could be involved."

The door of the playhouse was smashed, and all four perspex windows were removed and smashed. The school's outdoor shelter was also damaged, with draws being pulled out and children's 'ecowork' simply thrown on the ground.

The vandals even broke some ceramic tiles that the school was collecting to make a mosaic.

Lynne Bowen-Jones added: "The children are upset, and the staff are furious.

"I hope that when the police catch these vandals that they will be forced to pay for every last penny of the damage they have caused!"



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ABOVE: Mark Griffith has customers from Dinas Powys, Barry and Sully – and one regular all the way from Oxford!

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OPEN 7 days a week

DINAS POWYS is a village that prides itself on the wide variety of shops and services it provides – and not only in all the family essentials, but specialist areas, too.

The importance of a local shopping provision was demonstrated during the snowfalls in the run-up to Christmas when local traders struggled in to make sure people were properly supplied.

Jan Mapstone, who has run Valley View Fruit Stores with husband Tony for 14 years, explained: "During the snow we got up extra early – we live in Cardiff – and dug ourselves out to make sure we were in on time.

"We didn't miss a day because we didn't want to let people down. People said how valuable the store was."

"During that time we were particularly helpful to elderly people and people stranded at home.

"Normally we do four to five deliveries a

by TIM CHAPMAN

day – at that time we were up to 14 or 15! One night we were still here at 8pm to make sure everyone got what they needed."

For Jan and Tony it is a seven day labour of love, opening at 8am Monday to Friday, half an hour earlier on Saturdays and at 9am on Sundays.

Although the shop stocks hundreds of products, including a large selection of groceries and an exhaustive array of fresh vegetables displayed in front of the premises, Jan takes pride in sourcing whatever the customer wants.

"We are sometimes looked upon as a quirky shop because if people ask about something they have seen in the past we will see if we can get it for them again."

For example, the sweet selection is a throw back to many people's youths – 130 varieties – which includes peach jellies, sour apple cubes, chocolate mice, liquorice torpedoes,

"During that time we were particularly helpful to elderly people and people stranded at home.

"Normally we do four to five deliveries a

and so on!"

Jan's suppliers are often local too – Willowbank Produce and Sunncroft Farm Foods in Barry, Bruton's and Clark's Pies based in Grangetown, and specialist cakes arrive first thing in the morning from Penarth Bakery.

Family businesses are one of the strengths of Dinas Powys – Huw Evans took over Budgens on Cardiff Road from his father-in-law Jay Patel, who was a popular businessman in the village during his 18 year tenure of the store.

PRIZE SERVICE

Huw said: "Jay still likes to pop in for a couple of mornings a week, so local people still see him from time to time."

Like Jan and Tony, for Huw, Budgens is a seven day a week business, although he does find time to play rugby for Cathays RFC in the Cardiff and District League on Saturday afternoons.

"We open at 6am from Mondays to Saturdays, at 7am on Sundays, and are open until 9pm, although we will be increasing the hours to 10pm in a

couple of weeks time." One of Huw's prize services is the on site bakery.

"We do bread, baguettes, muffins, doughnuts, croissants and confectionery lines – sometimes people are surprised that items are still warm because they thought we'd buy them in.

"The store is not just for top-up shopping – people can do a full shop here."

There's fresh meat and produce, all the essentials like milk, bread, cheeses, tinned foods, tea, coffee, ready meals, cereals, pet food, household products, and a great display of beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks.

"Most of our customers are local Dinas people, but we have a strong 'through trade' with people off to work from Barry to places like Pontypool picking up their snacks and papers on the way – or people coming in the other direction."

SPECIALIST

One characteristic of traders in Dinas Powys is that they have time to devote to people – it's not a case of taking money and on with the next customer.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 13)



ABOVE: Jan Mapstone of Valley View Fruit Stores receiving a delivery from Penarth Bakery.



ABOVE: Kate and Mandy from Bank of Flowers will brighten up your day!

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DINAS POWYS

"The SMALL COMMUNITY with a BIG HEART"



ABOVE: Huw Evans with Budgens bakery selection. The wide variety of products means local families can do a full shop at the Cardiff Road supermarket.



ABOVE: Guitars to the stars! Tim from TC Ellis Guitars - one of their designed basses is heading into the hands of Lemmy from Motorhead!



ABOVE: Lifestyle Furniture and Kitchens on Cardiff Road offers affordable bedroom, dining and lounge furniture - along with stylish ornaments.



ABOVE:
The Cenotaph in the 'old village' area of Dinas Powys.

Dinas has something for everyone

(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 12)

Mark Griffith, the family butcher, has worked in the village for 34 years, and along with Dave Williams and Michael Billings, Wakely, provides a service with lots of laughs and banter.

"People are more friends than customers. We get to know them all by their first names."

Mark provides choice meats – beef, chicken,

lamb, steaks, pork, gammon, pies, eggs, and a selection of flavoured sausages and burgers made on the premises.

His products are from all parts of Wales – lamb from St Clare's, eggs from Newport, and Caer Emlyn turkeys from Whitland – which were voted 'Great Britain's tastiest!'

"We supply the local school and also do the Dickensian Fair."

It will not surprise

anyone that Mark, Dave and Michael have a loyal clientele from Dinas, Sully and Barry, but this will amaze people...

"We've got a regular customer from Oxford – lamb from St Clare's, eggs from Newport, and Caer Emlyn turkeys from Whitland – which were voted 'Great Britain's tastiest!'

"We supply the local school and also do the Dickensian Fair."

Specialist shops are a big feature of Dinas –

and one local shop TC Ellis Guitars at Camm's Corner can boast of an association with rock royalty.

Owner Tim Ellis said: "Tim Butcher, my colleague, and I make guitars for Motorhead. We're just getting a new bass ready for Lemmy."

The two Tims deal in mainly electric guitars, custom building them and offering repairs, although they do have acoustic ones too.

Tim explained: "Some people can pay £2,000 to £3,000 on an electric guitar, but we can start people up for £750 and upwards. It means a professional set-up, quality tone woods and all the advice someone needs for their playing style." ALADDIN'S CAVE

Another specialist shop is Lifestyle Furniture and Kitchens run by Lynne and Peter Ellis which offers every sort of interior furniture you could need – kitchens, dining sets, mattresses and beds, reclining chairs, wardrobes, coffee tables, rugs, mirrors, bookcases – and even a juke box.

The prices are keen with a single divan bed at £79, a four draw divan at £279 and a metal single bed at £69.

A beautiful rustic dining table is just £399. Lifestyle Furniture is also an Aladdin's cave for people who want ornamental pieces to enhance their rooms.

The strength of local businesses can be shown by the fact that Mark Daniell is about to celebrate the 21st

anniversary of Head to Head Hairdressers and Barbers.

Conveniently located in the heart of Dinas Powys square, all the stylists are highly trained and receive ongoing training.

Mark and his staff provide a comprehensive service from Monday to Saturday for women and men, complete with all the latest styles and techniques, and there is a price list to suit everyone.

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ABOVE: Mark Daniell and the staff of Head to Head, are celebrating the business's 21st anniversary.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update



The Vale Family Support Services Action for Children

WHO are we? We are a local project run by Action for Children, a leading voluntary organisation.

Action for children work towards making a positive difference in the lives of children and young people.

Where are we? We are based in Cardiff Road, Barry. Our services are used by families across the Vale of Glamorgan.

What do we do? We offer family intervention – to support families to stay together, working with them to find their

own solutions to cope with daily life, through difficulties and crisis.

We offer a service for young carers – to support young people who care for a relative at home, by providing advice, respite, activities and peer support.

We offer a safe and supportive environment for families, separated from their children, to have contact with each other.

Why your help is important. All donations will help us to maximise our opportunities to increase support to the most vulnerable children and young people in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Donate an Easter Egg Today and make someone smile this Easter

We are collecting Easter Eggs to donate to:



Please bring all your donations to:
AG ADAMS & SON
Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA
or

WA BROWN & SON
Pembroke House, College Street,
Llantwit Major CF61 1SG
by Monday 18th April 2011

Nostalgic play for the PODS director

EXACTLY 70 years ago, Noel Coward wrote and directed *Blithe Spirit* in the West End of London, and it is a proud time for Penarth Operatic

& Dramatic Society director, Margaret Donaldson, who had played the part of Ruth in 1982.

Blithe Spirit tells the story of a dinner party at the home of Charles

and Ruth Condomine. Charles is looking for material for his latest book, so invites local medium Madam Arcati to hold a séance.

Unfortunately, Madam Arcati contacts his first wife Elvira, who causes a good deal of trouble for poor Charles, his present wife Ruth and their dinner guests.

The society will perform *Blithe Spirit* at The Paget Rooms, Penarth, from March 16-19 at 7.30pm.

Tickets £8 adults, £7 concessions. Tickets from Tenovus Charity Shop 23 Windsor Road, Penarth, Tel. 02920 708668 Brian Gardner. Tel. 02920 712260 Wendy Huxtable McTurk. Tel. 02920 708046 Reduced prices for parties of 12 or more. Many thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan for its grant

Springtime with Beauty Clinic

WITH spring arriving, now is the time to prepare your body ready to complement your spring wardrobe.

Start by exfoliating your skin with one of the many treatments available at The Beauty clinic or treat yourself to a back facial, which is on offer during March.

Indulge in a California spray tan –

the safest way to look better!

Enjoy a pedicure ready for summer sandals, with nail art available for toes and fingers; and don't forget waxing for legs and bikini line.

Go bling with your bikini line and treat yourself to a special gem design.

Call in to The Beauty Clinic, High Street, Barry, or telephone 01446 743222 for an appointment.

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EYELASH EXTENSIONS • HOPE EAR CANDLES • MANICURE/SIGNALS • BODY WRAPS • WAXING

Vale Women's Business Network

Shout about your success!

Wednesday March 16, 2011
at Trio Brasserie, Cowbridge, 6.30 - 9pm

Guests and non-members are most welcome!
(Guest Membership for this event is £6)
Please email members@vwbn.org.uk to book

www.vwbn.org.uk

Shout about your success!

ARE you award-winning material? Do you know

how to impress a panel of judges?

Do you know that if your evidence is poor you won't get the credit you deserve – no matter how good your story is?

This month, the VWBN look forward to welcoming UK Business Advisor of the year and holder of a Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion, Janet Scicluna.

Janet successfully runs her own business, supporting individuals setting up in business, and has been instrumental in assisting over 1,000 new business start-ups across south-east Wales.

Please join us and find out why more women should be encouraged to go for national awards.

Please contact us to book for this event on March 16 at members@vwbn.org.uk. For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, contact members@vwbn.org.uk

Hypnotherapy will help to take the strain

CAPITAL Hypnotherapy is a well-established practice which has had many well-documented successes over the years.

By using hypnotherapy, you can stop smoking for good, manage your weight, deal with phobias, anxiety, stress, pain, depression and even experience what appear to be past life memories, as well as learning simple relaxation techniques to help you deal with life's everyday stresses and

strains.

When used for health-related matters like dieting and smoking cessation, the therapist uses guided relaxation to place a person into a frame of mind where they are highly responsive to positive suggestions for their benefit.

Suggestion helps people to be responsive to ideas – like the fact that they can live without cigarettes or a second piece of cake – that they might normally reject.

For more information, contact Dr Ray Roberts on 01446 730700.



A YOUNG Barry film-maker has put on sale his award-winning film about Barry Island, with proceeds going to Ty Hafan hospice.

Michael J Moore is in his third year of a BA Hons documentary film course at the University of Wales, Newport. He told The GEM: "Last year, I completed a documentary that dealt with the issues of Barry Island, and also its history."

"I screened the film to the local action group FOCUSBarry and then went on to win an award at the International Youth Film Festival. "Recently, I won another award, this time the factual award at the Ffresb Film Festival. I have now completed the DVD case.

"Marco's Cafe and the Harbour arcade will be selling the copies and I will also be asking others if they would be willing to do the same."

He added: "The film will be £4 a copy and is supporting the children's charity Ty Hafan."

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre

(Telephone: 01656 725219)

Whisky gives you fun galore!

THIS WEEK: Linda Feagan highlights Whisky is a Cairn Terrier.

He is lots of fun, and is enjoying his training with us, and will need an owner who can continue with this. Before coming to us he had a sheltered life, so can be worried by new situations, but with calm, patient handling, Whisky's confidence and behaviour is improving greatly.

Although he enjoys socialising with other dogs while out and about, he will need to be the only dog in the home.

If you would like to offer Whisky a home, and can visit him a few times at the centre before rehoming him, he will make a rewarding and



Whisky is looking forward to meeting you soon!

entertaining little companion.

Contact the centre on 01656 725219, or visit Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend. You can also see Whisky and some of his friend on our website www.dogstrust.org.uk

Bridgend planning

Andrew H Callaghan – 2 Church Place, Porthcawl – new kitchen extension and garage together with internal refurbishment works.

Mr James Watkins – 12 Brynfaes, Broadlands, Bridgend – convert garage into living room.

Mr Keith Williams – 13 The Green Avenue, Porthcawl – proposed dining room extension.

Mrs A Stroud – r/o St Michael's Road and Morris Street, Maesteg – erect block of six garages.

Miss NJ Baker – Forge Cottage, 1 Louther Row, Porthcawl – rear first floor extension.

Creation Developments Ltd – land adj Ogmore Vale Primary School, Aber Road, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend – new Ogmore childcare centre.

Mr D Butcher – 19 Parcau Road, Bridgend – regularise single storey side garage extension, rear conservatory and first floor extension.

Salon director in line for top beauty award

L E I G H A R N E PHILIPS, salon director of The Hair Business of Cowbridge has been nominated for the Welsh Women Mean Business Awards (WWMB) 2011.

She is a finalist in the best woman in beauty category, sponsored by Ken Picton and the Cardiff Dental Practice.

Leighanne launched the Hair Business in 1992, with three staff, but today employs a team of 22.

The awards, which are sponsored by Gocompare.com for the second year will take place in the week of International Women's Day.

There are 12 categories in this year's

awards including best business leader, young Welsh female entrepreneur, best female business newcomer and the Joshua Foundation memorial prize for outstanding contribution from a Welsh businesswoman in the field of charity work.

The awards will be combined with fundraising for WWMB's adopted charity, The Joshua Foundation, which provides holidays and experiences for children with terminal cancer.

The ceremony will take place at the Vale Resort and Spa on March 11, hosted by Jason Harrold. Guest speaker is Allegra McEvedy MBE, chef, writer, broadcaster and co-founder of the LEON restaurants.

YSGOL IOLO PUPILS CELEBRATE WEEK OF WELSH CULTURE IN COWBRIDGE!



**PICTURES by
MIKE WILCOCK**

• As can be seen, these patriotic children clearly revel in their Welsh heritage!



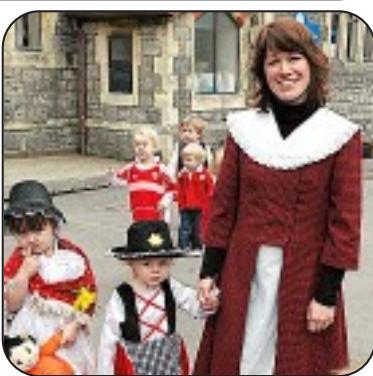
ST DAVID'S celebrations are being stretched over the whole week at Ysgol Ioilo Morganwg.

On Monday, the children were treated to a show by Welsh performer Martin Geraint, while on Tuesday wealth of activities was arranged by staff including folk dancing, Welsh stories and food tasting workshops.

All pupils had opportunities to join in the fun, literacy co-ordinator Catrin Brain said: "This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate our culture and our heritage. The children at the school realise the importance of St David's Day and are being taught the influential effect that the language has on our society and long-term benefits of being totally bilingual."

The school's Welsh cultural week will be crowned by celebrations – a Fairtrade/St David's coffee morning in the School Hall on Friday morning.

Fairtrade cakes will be on sale for the children and Welsh cakes for the adults. Everyone has embraced the opportunity to get involved. The children's cooking club at the school even prepared the Welsh cakes for the coffee morning! Ysgol Ioilo extends a warm welcome to all to their coffee morning tomorrow (March 4) at 9.15am. DE



YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



LEFT:
From left to right:
Hadyn Price, Bob Johnson, Lyndon (Scudder) Greenslade, Dai Parry were former Kenfig Hill RFC players who attended a reunion at the club.
(See report below).



Past and present players on the balcony at their reunion at Kenfig Hill RFC.



Pat Howells on the left celebrating her 92nd birthday with her friend Nancy Pilot at the Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill.

Birthday girl

BIRTHDAY congratulations to Pat Howells on her 92nd birthday.

Following a get-together with family and friends the previous evening, Pat celebrated her special day with a few friends at the luncheon club last Friday in the Talbot Community centre.

Following lunch, she stayed on for a game of bingo, during which she was presented with a cake.

Her afternoon couldn't have been more complete as she won a full house!

At the end of the afternoon, Pat was heard to say: "I have really enjoyed my day and that win put the icing on the cake".

Community Watch

PYLE Neighbourhood Policing Team recently went to the KPC Youth Club to offer some road safety advice.

Several youngsters went along to talk to the officers about issues such as cycling on the pavement, the wearing of a helmet and making sure that they have lights on their bikes.

The officers now have new bikes, which were funded by the Kenfig Trust and Pyle Community Council, and these were taken

along.

The team state that there has been a slight increase in vehicle crime in the area over the past week.

If you have any concerns or information about any issues in your area, call PCSO Jon Howe on 07805 301491.

Rugby reunion

IT WAS A nostalgic afternoon last Saturday at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club,

when past and present players met up for a reunion.

The atmosphere was tremendous when players from the past started showing old team photographs and talking about games that they were involved in.

It was good to see old stalwarts John Brown, Dai Dyne and Mansel Edwards, who are all in their 80s, as well as 79-year-old Les Powell, enjoying themselves.

With everyone gathered on such a magnificent occasion, the day was rounded off in great fashion, with Wales winning in Rome, and the mystery of why Haydn Price breached protocol by arriving first at the club a few Sundays ago, was solved.

After a few beers, when his resistance was low, he was taken to

COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net



ABOVE and BELOW:
Former players at the reunion.



the trophy room and quizzed about it.

After being pressed, he admitted that due to the amount of jogging he had done recently, he was somewhat fitter and this enabled him to walk much more quickly, which cuts down the time it now takes him to get to the club.

As it is intended to make this an annual event, the club would be delighted if all past players who have lost contact with the club, get in touch, by contacting Tony Lewis on 01656 741771, or Ray Giles on 07791 250308.

round and let off with a caution. At the end of the day, Ray Giles was delighted by the number of past players who turned up.

Mr Paul Marshall - **Frankie & Benny's, Designer Outlet Village, Bridgend** - two internal illuminated fascia signs, two static shop front awnings with external illumination and one internal illuminated menu display.

Mrs L Williams - **64 Lloyd Street, Maesteg** - two storey extension to rear to provide new bathroom and en-suite shower

Parc Slip Nature Reserve

THE South and West Wales Wildlife Trust are investigating the possibility of improving facilities at the visitor centre located on the above reserve.

They have put a questionnaire form on their website www.welshwildlife.org asking for the public's views on this.

The trust will also be offering a number of training courses at the centre to the public to improve their knowledge of wildlife on the reserves. Telephone 01656 724100 for further information.

On March 7 at 7.30pm, there will be a meeting in the Ogmore Constituency Labour Party Club, Bryntrion.

The speaker will be Martin Jones on the subject of the wildlife found on the disused railway system in south Wales. Visitors are welcome, at a small charge of £1. Telephone Peter on 662196 for further information.

Owls4you an owl rescue centre has been operating for 30 months and Ann with her helper Alan, take owls to education visits at schools, children's clubs.

Over 26 years, they have released over 9,000 back into the wild.

During this time, they tended a raven which when recovered was donated to the Tower of London. Six months later, Ann visited the Tower and the raven recognised her and flew on to her shoulder.

Jean Griffiths thanked the speakers, and then informed members that there would be an additional meeting in the afternoon for members to so that members can get involved in arts and crafts, while others discuss books at Tondu Wesley Methodist Church on Fridays at 2pm.

The church has two rooms available and there is a kitchen with tea making facilities.

On July 16, there will be a trip to St Teilo's Church, Bishopston, followed by lunch and a stroll along the seafront in Mumbles.

On September 10, there will be a trip to Bath

Mr D Tickner - **1 Locks Court, Porthcawl** - works to elm tree growing in elevated stone wall.

Mrs Ceri Thomas - **8 Clos Coed, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend** - fell various ash trees in rear garden. Eclectic Vintage Boutique - **1A Dunraven Place, Bridgend** - non-illuminated hanging sign.

Mr Paul Marshall - **Frankie & Benny's, Designer Outlet Village, Bridgend** - two internal illuminated fascia signs, two static shop front awnings with external illumination and one internal illuminated menu display.

Mrs L Williams - **64 Lloyd Street, Maesteg** - two storey extension to rear to provide new bathroom and en-suite shower

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



and a boat trip on the river Avon.

Angela Smith, vice-president, also proposed an overnight stay in London to attend the Proms at the Albert Hall.

The speaker was Mrs Ann Bird, accompanied by her assistant Mr Alan Shepherd from the owl sanctuary. She had originally started the Swan Rescue society in 1988 with her husband, after finding a badly injured male swan.

They paid £5,000 to build and equip a centre where all breeds of birds were accepted but after two break-ins, the Rescue Centre was closed.

Owls4you an owl rescue centre has been operating for 30 months and Ann with her helper Alan, take owls to education visits at schools, children's clubs.

Over 26 years, they have released over 9,000 back into the wild.

During this time, they tended a raven which when recovered was donated to the Tower of London. Six months later, Ann visited the Tower and the raven recognised her and flew on to her shoulder.

Jean Griffiths thanked the speakers, and then informed members that there would be an additional meeting in the afternoon for members to so that members can get involved in arts and crafts, while others discuss books at Tondu Wesley Methodist Church on Fridays at 2pm.

The title of the next meeting is 'Surprise', which will be of a Welsh item, in Pen-y-Fai primary school hall.

Tondu Toddlers!
MRS EVANS' nursery and reception class at Tondu primary school invites responsible adults and friends to the class assembly tomorrow, March 4 at 10.20am.

The school has restarted Tondu Toddlers

mornings on Thursdays between 9.45am-11.30am for both the children and responsible adults helpers to join.

The school welcomes volunteer helpers to join 'Helping hand' activities on Mondays between 9am-11.30am.

Year 3 pupils enjoyed a recent trip to the pantomime in the New Theatre, Cardiff.

The school will be holding its St David's Day celebrations tomorrow (March 4), and would like to see as many pupils as possible wearing Welsh costumes, or something that signifies Welsh heritage.

Responsible adults are invited to see an exhibition relating to St David's Day from 3pm.

There will also be a cookery competition, with pupils preparing a Welsh-themed dish using Fairtrade ingredients.

Special concert
A CONCERT is being held in Aberkenfig Bible Church, Pandy Road, on Friday, March 11 at 7.30pm.

Taking part is the Brackla Community Chorus, with music provided by the Pencoed Silver Band. All money raised is to be donated to the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Centre to support research.

This followed a choir member's nine-month-old granddaughter being diagnosed with leukaemia.

She is undergoing her second treatment of chemotherapy and the money raised is a thank you to the hospital for their wonderful care.

Tickets £5, are available from chorus and band members, and will also be on sale at the door.

Two choirs
CÔR Merched Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Ladies Choir) is hold-

ing its annual concert, postponed from last December because of the weather conditions, on Friday, March 25, at 7.15pm in Blaenarvon rugby club. The music will be provided by Pencoed silver band and the guest choir is Ogmor Valley male voice, under musical director Eira Paskin.

Maesteg competition

MAESTEG 'Gleemen'

male voice choir has announced the winners of the Bridgend young singers of the 2011 competition.

The junior section's Rhidian Jenkins and both senior section competitors Mari and Lowri Izzard will be singing solo, and together with the choir in the annual concert at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, March 26 at 7pm.

The guest artist will be the rising baritone star Gary Griffiths and compere for the evening is BBC presenter Chris Neeves.

Tickets for the concert will be available from the box office, or can be ordered by telephoning John on 01656 735007/739365.

Charitable gesture

THE competition recently entered by Bridged Male Choir in the Riviera International Centre, Torquay, unfortunately saw it unplaced, the prize winning places being taken by ladies barbershop choirs.

On the return journey, the choir performed in a concert at a church in North Somerset. The church was packed and funds raised were donated to the local community hospital.

Mr and Mrs Stephen Williams - 13 The Retreat, Porthcawl - residential dwelling in grounds of Russet House (outline).

Mr David Clarkson - 191 West Road, Porthcawl - single storey extension.

Mr Robert Morris - 73 Llys Pentre, Broadlands, Bridgend - conversion of integral garage to habitable room.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr D Tickner - 1 Locks Court, room.

Mr Darryl Churchill - Preswylla Farm, Heol Pandy, Pandy Farm, Heol Pandy, Bridgend - storage barn for storage of agricultural machinery, tools etc.

Mrs Ceri Thomas - 8 Clos Llangeinor, Bridgend - fell various ash trees in rear garden.

Eclectic Vintage Boutique - 1A Dunraven Place, Bridgend - Hazel Close, Porthcawl - bay window extension to front of bungalow.

Mr Allan Jones - 31 Bryn Llidiard, Litchard, Bridgend - attic room.

Mr and Mrs Daniels - Mountain View, Heol Bradford, Bettws - demolish garage and construct new double bedroom with en-suite and internal alterations.

Logica - Logica, Moor Road, Waterton Industrial Estate,

Bridgend - proposed 16-bay bicycle shelter (to replace existing eight-bay shelter).

Neath Port Talbot CBC - Mynydd y Gelli Wind Farm, Abergwynfi, Port Talbot - OBS request for erection of 15 wind turbines.

Mr and Mrs Stephen Williams - 13 The Retreat, Porthcawl - residential dwelling in grounds of Russet House (outline).

Mr David Clarkson - 191 West Road, Porthcawl - single storey extension.

Mr Robert Morris - 73 Llys Pentre, Broadlands, Bridgend - conversion of integral garage to habitable room.



FOCUS ON....

Vale Business Park

LLANDOW, NEAR COWBRIDGE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



'AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS!'

- Traders say the Vale Business Park gives them a great base

THE Vale may be proud of its leafy rural image, but every area needs more than green fields in order to thrive in today's

challenging economic climate.

They require the widest possible range of employers and employment opportunities, and those employees, in turn, demand choice and

variety when it comes to where they spend their hard-earned cash.

There are so many goods and services that people need which cannot be bought in the retail shopping parks or high streets.

That is why trading estates such as the Vale Business Park have such an impor-

tant part to play in the life of the Vale – and it helps that it is one of the best managed and maintained around.

Anyone travelling along the road from Cowbridge to Llantwit Major would not immediately be aware of the scale of the park, and of the sheer number of enterprises



ABOVE: LEL Properties Ltd.

that are beavering away behind Weavers, the Ford dealership that is visible from the highway.

The estate has come a long way since the Ministry of Defence decided to sell off the land in the 1970s, and it was LEL Properties that bought it.

The chairman of LEL Properties, John Winslade, told The GEM: "I think that anyone who looks around the park would be really surprised by the variety of companies doing business here!"

Millions have been invested in the site, as that wide range of businesses have moved in. The original layout had room for about 20 companies, but now there are more than 90 on site.

Another two moved in recently, as more companies become aware of the benefits to be found on the Vale Business Park. These include the overall security, as access is controlled at night by a gatehouse.

A total of 3,000 trees have been planted over the years, something that makes the Business Park blend in well with the natural landscape – a good thing, of course, although it does mean that people don't realise how much is here.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

L.E.L.

(Properties) Limited

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Vale Business Park

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(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 17)

A common experience in some trading estates is driving around constantly avoiding the potholes! However, the infrastructure in the Vale Business Park has been protected by the parent company's investment policy, continuing to monitor and repair road surfaces.

Christian Pedersen

of Topstak has been in business at Llandow since 1968, and has seen his own business expand – particularly strongly over the last 10 years – with staff increasing by 25 per cent in the last 12 months.

Apart from providing local employment, Topstak sources all its firewood from managed woodlands around south Wales, spreading the econom-

ic benefits even further.

He said: "The park is an excellent location, and customers from Cardiff, south Wales and even further away find it easy to get here."

"It has helped us build a loyal and growing customer base."

Riverlea Tractors is another business that is well-established on the park, and a spokesman said: "It has been an excellent base for trading, here in the Vale and beyond."

He added that the horticultural side of the business, supply-

"We are now in our fourth year, and employ four staff, and that support has meant that we recently expanded into horticultural products, taking on the dealership for Honda Power."

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Herbert R Thomas LLP is retained by LEL Properties to act as commercial agent and negotiate new lettings, and have recently let 3,650 sq ft on the Vale Business Park to Stunning Ventures Ltd, who provide corporate entertainment throughout the UK.

Contact James Mordecai at Herbert R Thomas LLP, to discuss your property requirement on 01446 776385, or e-mail jamesmordecai@hrt.uk.com for further details.

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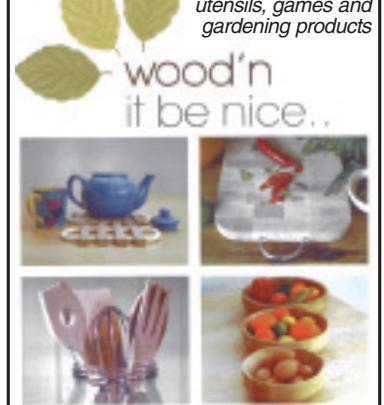
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Richard Couzens
machinery limited.
RIGHT: The Topstak
showroom.



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Anthony Hopkins is devilishly hammy in average horror film

SEVERAL summers ago, I found myself walking behind Anthony Hopkins on Cowbridge High Street: had I the opportunity to stop him, after praising him on a career of huge success, I would have asked him why he was now choosing to spend his time making less-than vital fare.

The likes of *The Wolfman*, *All The Kings Men*, *Proof* and *The Human Stain* are all examples of lacklustre films wasting the actor's gravitas and ability.

With Hopkins' screen time diminishing due to his love of painting and composing (he will be 'in concert' this July in St David's Hall), his latest outing takes on something of a rare opportunity.

Entitled *The Rite*, it tells the story of Michael Kovak (Colin O'Donoghue), a seminary student sent to Rome to study exorcism under Father Lucas Trevant (Hopkins). However, Kovak's scepticism is put to the test

by the events he sees, while Trevant starts to show signs that he, too, is becoming affected by the presence of evil...

For an Anthony Hopkins aficionado like myself, the opportunity to see him possessed by a demon is one that couldn't be passed up; after all, Hopkins unleashed is always a hugely watchable prospect, and the same is true here.

Sadly, that is one of the only things that is watchable, as *The Rite* is a humdrum slice of schlock horror, enlivened only by the lead turns.

That Hopkins isn't the lead isn't a huge problem, as the film is well anchored by newcomer Colin

O'Donoghue as Kovak.

He offers a decent turn as a man thrown into a world of religion almost by accident, and it is his scepticism and reluctance that offers meat to the film's central conflict of belief versus doubt, when it comes to the presence of evil.

O'Donoghue more than holds his own and is a solid lead, tempering his turn with low-key reserve and more than a hint of doubt, and it is an auspicious debut

for the actor. Opposite him, Hopkins is a devilish delight, his turn coming with a massive dollop of ham, yet as ever always watchable.

The scenes for him are easily the most engaging, the actor delivering all of his gravitas and nous to a role that he could probably play in his sleep, yet imbuing it with vivacity.

Hopkins would be watchable even as the lead in a *Kerry Katona* biopic, and it is in his exorcism scenes that he really hits home – no one can shout lines like "Daddy's coming from hell!" with quite the same panache as Hopkins, and his turn, along with O'Donoghue's, really elevates the material.

While Alice Braga is so-so as a journalist looking into the world of exorcism, and the likes of Ciaran Hinds, Rutger Hauer and Toby Jones pop up to give the cast a credibility boost – it is Marta Gastini who strikes out as a young girl who, depending on your viewpoint, is either possessed or in need of psychiatric help; her performance is strong, hitting the right notes as a pregnant teen in a world

of trouble. Director Mikael Hafstrom is on familiar territory here, having helmed the underwhelming hotel room horror 1408, and he clearly comes from the old school of relying on naturalistic jumps rather than computer-generated horrors; sadly, there just aren't enough of them. While Hafstrom gives the film an eerie look and feel, and plays on the psychological impact of the events, the scares just aren't there, with only a few jumps carrying any level of ingenuity.

While he moves the film along at a pace, and marshals the performances well, there just isn't very much going on here from the direction, Hafstrom undone by a horror lacking in real scares.

The biggest bugbear, however, is the script. Written by Michael Petroni (responsible for the last outing in the *Narnia* franchise, weirdly) and based on a book by Matt Baglio, which recounts true events, it starts off as a story about how a conflicted man finds himself tested by the church's unerring belief in the presence of the devil and evil.

This conflict is mined well early on, but once

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

we reach the exorcism parts, this meatiest topic of belief systems gives way to histrionics and generic horror staples.

As frustrating as this is, it is almost par for the course in a genre that places scares over substance – and were it not for the three decent *The Rite* would be on the bottom rung of that ladder.

However, Hopkins' delightfully devilish turn and those around him make this a passable, but ultimately forgettable, film.

VERDICT – A
schlocky horror that is lifted by the turns of Anthony Hopkins and Marta O'Donoghue and Marta Gastini. *The Rite* is nothing spectacular nor anything overtly offensive.

Lacking in real scares and jumps, it is the performances of the previously mentioned actors that save it from total ignominy. **AVERAGE.**

Artist looks for Vale women with a story

WOMEN in the Vale are being asked to come forward to take part in an art project to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

It is the idea of local artist Sol Jorgensen, who has returned to St Donats Arts Centre for another solo exhibition of drawings, prints and photographs of rural women in small communities.

The exhibition forms the start of a new project to draw and record the lives of women in the rural Vale in particular, and Sol is looking for interesting women to draw.

The exhibition has an introduction by Mrs Pauline Thomas, a Wick resident for 45 years, and is open to the public from Monday to Friday (10am–4pm).

Sol is known locally for work with disabled youth, and gave up a promising career to stay at home and care for her disabled father and son.

In her first year at art college she exhibited photographs in the prestigious Institute of Contemporary Art in London and lectured in St Martins College of Art in the year after her degree.



ABOVE:
One of Sol Jorgensen's drawings of her son, Seth.

She is now studying for her masters degree, and has a studio in Wick.

Anyone interested in having a portrait drawn by Sol can contact her on 01656 890728 to set up a venue, and to be invited to a private view and artists talk on March 7.

This is on the eve of the 100th International Womens Day and has prompted the project.

Sol told The GEM:

"Local stories and local lives are often lost to history, but make up the very backbone of our land. I would like to record some of the life stories in whatever form is suitable to the sitter."

"From drawing to diary work, paintings to poems, of the land and the people that make up our lives. In this Centennial year I want to include women from the Rural Vale."

OCEAN LOUNGE • PORTHKERRY

OPEN FROM FRIDAY, 11th MARCH

It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, and some changes to the menu with a new specials board, we are definitely worth visiting.

Can you be entertained?

Mixing it up a bit more this year! As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some bands and comedians, plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday (Easter onwards) such as karaoke, theme nights, band nights, comedy nights, and drag artists, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value menu from only £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings from the end of May onwards. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. Sunday lunch from £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. Booking for lunch is definitely recommended.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston it is a great place to find refreshment with the large cliff top patio and outdoor seating. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major.

What else? A large car park and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with a great atmosphere!

Bookings for Mothers Day now being taken, 3 course meal £9.95, plus pianist/violin. Booking definitely recommended to avoid disappointment.

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Out and About with The GEM

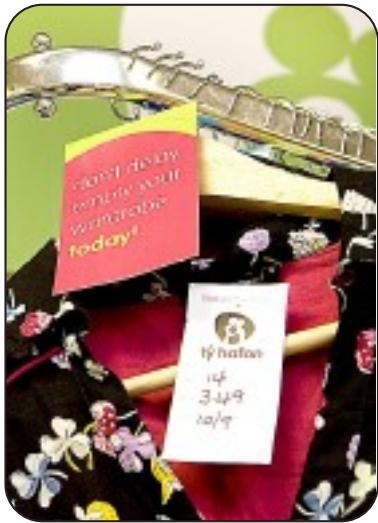
Empty wardrobes to help Ty Hafan!

TY HAFAN charity shops in Barry and Maesteg are appealing for donations of good quality unwanted clothes.

"You can be rest assured that the charity will make the most of every item you donate to benefit life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales," a spokeswoman said.

"And if you happen to be a UK taxpayer, and sign up for Gift Aid, Ty Hafan can claim an extra 25p in the pound on top of the selling price of your donations. It doesn't end there either as, should an item not be sold, it will be sent for recycling which generates additional income for the charity too."

For more information, telephone 029 2067 2067 or visit www.tyhafan.org



"Don't delay - empty your wardrobe today!" - Ty Hafan call.

Fairtrade feast in Porthcawl

SUSTAINABLE WALES is planning a 'Fairtrade Feast' at The Salthouse, The Square, Porthcawl, on March 10, from 7pm.

The Feast is one of the highlights of the annual 'Fairtrade Fortnight' (February 28-March 13) and draws attention to unfair trading practices, as well as providing funds for Sustainable Wales.

Director Margaret Minchinick said: "The charity is hoping to entice people to a meal that starts off with a Fairtrade cocktail reception and progresses over three luscious courses,

the ingredients of which are as fairly-traded and locally-sourced as possible, finishing off with coffee and Fairtrade chocolates.

Dinner guests are asked to don items of cotton to draw attention to the injustices that make Fairtrade a vital lifeline for cotton farmers.

Most producers are small-scale farmers up against unstable world prices, pushed down by cheap, subsidised cotton from China, the US and EU dumped onto world markets."

Contact Sustainable Wales at 41 John Street, Porthcawl, 01656 783405, or SUSSED, 92 John Street, 783962.

BUY FAIRTRADE!

DURING "Show off your label!" in Fairtrade Fortnight (February 28-March 13) Cowbridge shoppers are invited to get "loud and proud" and show the Fairtrade label to make a difference to millions of developing world farmers who still live in poverty.

Fairtrade goods are on sale in Noah's Place Café, 21 Westgate, on March 5 from 10.30am.

A Cowbridge Physic Garden Event

Gardeners' Question Time
in the St Quentin's Suite
at the Bear Hotel,
Cowbridge, Wednesday,
March 16th at 7.30pm



'A YEAR IN MY GARDEN'

A talk by Ivor Mace, renowned nationwide expert on chrysanthemums, roses, carnations and a Premier League vegetable grower. Enjoy an informative evening with one of the best plantmen in Wales. **Chairman: Dan Clayton-Jones with a panel of experts** Tickets £5 per person (pay at the door) • Bar and Raffle For pre-booked tickets phone: 01446 774534 or book on-line All proceeds for the Physic Garden which relies wholly on public support for its livelihood

Church Street, COWBRIDGE, Vale of Glamorgan
www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Kidney Wales' Walk for Life

KIDNEY Wales Foundation's biggest event of the year, Walk for Life, on Sunday, March 27, will be sponsored by Specsavers Bridgend for the third year in a row.

It comprises a series of walks across Wales, organised by local people and attracts thousands, including celebrities and politicians.

"As well as supporting families affected by kidney disease, money raised from the walks will fund and train key staff at the Children's Kidney Centre. It will also help the charity invest in life-saving equipment and patient care, as well as fund ground-breaking research into kidney disease and support organ donation," a spokesman said.

Celebrities such as TV presenters Alex Jones,

Eisteddfod appeal committee

THE National Eisteddfod of Wales will be held at Llandudno, from August 4-11, 2012 and a Dinas Powys appeal committee has been set up to raise £12,000 towards the costs.

Some of the forthcoming events are: Monday, March 14 – fish and chip supper at the Star Inn – The Square, Dinas Powys at 7.30 pm. (Cost £12).

Saturday, April 30 – Twmpath Dawns – Parish Hall, Britwya Road, Dinas Powys.

Thursday, May 26 – An Evening with Rhodri Morgan – Lee Hall, Britwya Road, Dinas Powys.

Saturday, June 18 – family barbecue – Lee Hall, Britwya Road, Dinas Powys.

All are welcome to bring additional fundraising ideas to an open meeting to be held at the Old Library, Britwya Road, Dinas Powys on Tuesday, March 8, at 7.30pm.

Contact group leader Barbara Clissett on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Call are charged at standard rate.

Local history meeting

The next meeting of the Dinas Powys Local History Society will be on tuesday, March 8 at 7.30pm, when Matthew Salisbury will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Captain Scott – The Cardiff Connection' in the Kynance Church Hall, Dinas Powys.

A fee of £1.50 will be charged at the door for non-members, and £1 for members. All are welcome to attend.

Over-50s are offered a leisure centre taster day

VALE residents who are more than 50 years of age are invited to a day at their local leisure centre to try out a range of activities.

The days, given the snappy title "You Don't Know Until You Give It A Go Day" will take place at three Vale leisure centres, and are organised jointly by Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale, and The Vale Council.

A spokeswoman said: "These free days will offer taster sessions in different activities that already take place in the Vale."

Each session is from 10.30am to 2.30pm, and there will be free tea and coffee.

Taster sessions in Nordic walking, bowls, 'Extend', yoga, belly dancing,

badminton and a photographic challenge walk, plus many more.

There will be information on footpaths, cycle routes, private gyms, health spas and existing activity groups."

She added: "If you are over 60, why not bring proof of age, a swimsuit and towel to Barry or Penarth and have a free swim while you are there."

The sessions will take place at: Cowbridge Leisure Centre (Wednesday, March 9); Barry Leisure Centre (Wednesday, March 16); and Penarth (Cogan) Leisure Centre (Wednesday, March 23).

There will be local posters at each centres giving full details of the day's timetable.

IN BRIEF

Rhose surgery

RHOOSE ward councillors Jeff James and Gordon Kemp will be holding one of their regular advice surgeries on Saturday, March 12 from 10am to 12 noon at the Rhose Community hall, Stewart Road, Rhose. Residents in the ward are welcome. No appointment is necessary. For further information, telephone 01446 710690.

Diabetes talk

THE Diabetes UK Cymru's Vale voluntary group will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 15 in the board room at Llandough Hospital, at 7.30pm.

Dr Julia Platts, Consultant diabetologist, will give an update on diabetes research.

New members welcome. Call 01446 746639 for details.

Film show

THERE will be a film and social evening at the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society tomorrow (Friday, March 4)

Non-members interested in aeroplanes and the romance of flying are also welcome to attend.

The meeting will be held in the Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm for 8pm.

Further information from David Ephraim on 01446 721321.

Poetic art!



THE Washington Gallery in Penarth will be holding a women's art exhibition, to commemorate International Women's Day, all over the world on March 8.

Pauline Williams, Kay Keogh, Shirley Anne Owen and Sue Roberts will present an exhibition of painting and 3D work, incorporating the theme of poetry from March 7-26.

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at Llantwit Major Rugby Club this Saturday, 5th March 10am to 3pm

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SUPERSTARS IN MAKING RAISE FUNDS FOR NOAH'S ARK APPEAL

LEFT:
Christian Bullen and Connie Fisher.

STUDENTS from Barry's revival. Superstars in the Making Performing Arts Academy provided the entertainment for The Noah's Ark Appeal's annual event at the Hilton Hotel on February 27.

The children performed a variety of hits from West End Musicals including the *Sound of Music* in the presence of Connie Fisher, star of the West End

The students were invited to perform at this prestigious event after being spotted at their 'Superstars Live' show at the Memorial Hall last November. Receiving a standing ovation at the end of Sunday's show was proof that these children are real Superstars. The academy is thrilled to contribute to such a worthwhile charity and all pro-

ceeds went to The Noah's Ark Appeal fund!

The students enjoyed chatting with Connie after the show and were thrilled to be invited to perform in future events.

To follow Superstars' busy performance schedule, visit www.superstarsinthemaking.com or call 07531814820.

CHRISTIAN BULLEN

Penarth Computer Club Helping to cut out the jargon!

WHY do we at the club try to avoid jargon? Because it gets in the way of understanding.

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It is hard to understand what someone is saying if they use unfamiliar words. I am not talking only about educated, or sophisticated, words. The problem is just as acute if the words form part of a local dialect or slang or jargon.

Jargon is the language, especially the words, used by a particular trade, group, or profession. The technical nature of computers means that there is an inevitable amount of

jargon. We encourage members to shout 'Jargon', if the speaker uses a word that is not understood. It can then be explained in simple language immediately.

It means that others who would be reluctant to shout out also learn.

Much jargon consists of words made up for the new technology. For example, BIOS is a computer acronym for basic input output system just as BOGOF in marketing stands for buy one get one free. A more general one is PIN for personal identification number.

Everyday words can also mean something entirely different in the context of computers. A computer used to be a person who did the working out of a mathematician's formula by inserting a series of values and computing the results using pencil and paper. Now it is a

magic box that does wonderfully complex things according to instructions.

A mouse used to have a tail, in common with a real live mouse. A wireless mouse doesn't have one, but the name will stick.

We boot up a computer, but do not actually kick it. The boot refers to a bootstrap programme coded permanently into the machine. It runs when the power is switched on and loads the operating system into memory for operation.

It refers to the self-sufficiency of being able to pull oneself up by ones own bootstraps.

A bug was already in use as a term for a problem in a device and extended to computer programmes when they came about.

In 1947 America, when computers were still using valves and

electrical contacts, a problem was identified as a dead moth trapped between relay terminals.

It was stuck to the daily log and noted as the first actual case of a bug being found. The log, with moth, eventually found its way into the Smithsonian in 1991 and later exhibited.

What might have started out as a joke is now enshrined in computer history.

The computer pioneers must have had fun dreaming up new words or new meanings for old ones.

We next meet on Tuesday March 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30 for 8. There will be a short session on keyboard shortcuts and a talk on a topic yet to be decided. Visitors welcome.

HOWARD DESMOND

Cowbridge squash results

WITH the squash league taking a week off, it is a chance to take a look at the league tables.

While Cowbridge A Bar 44 are fighting it out in a tight league, the B Bar 44 team will be hoping to catch the top two in the coming weeks.

The C team meanwhile will be looking to pull away from the bottom and make a charge towards the upper reaches of the table - there is all to play for!

ONE EAST SECTION B

*Referee Points

Pos	Team	Ties Won	Ties Lost	Matches Won	Matches Lost	Games For	Games Against	Points For	Points Against	TOTAL POINTS
1st	Newport D	4	1	17	8	58	43	716	631	75*
2nd	Rhiwbina B	3	2	14	11	49	45	650	638	63*
3rd	Cardiff C	2	3	12	13	50	56	668	752	58
4th	St Mellons C	3	2	11	14	45	56	677	703	57
5th	Cowbridge A Bar 44	2	3	12	13	49	50	969	671	57
6th	Newport E	1	4	9	16	52	53	712	724	56

SOUTH GLAMORGAN ONE

*Referee Points

Pos	Team	Ties Won	Ties Lost	Matches Won	Matches Lost	Games For	Games Against	Points For	Points Against	TOTAL POINTS
1st	David Lloyd B	4	1	18	7	58	33	676	544	76*
2nd	Barry Leisure A	4	1	16	9	56	35	670	540	73*
3rd	Cowbridge B Bar 44	2	3	9	16	39	54	555	661	48*
4th	St Mellons E	1	4	9	16	38	55	590	665	45*
5th	Rhiwbina D	2	2	8	12	35	44	483	554	44*
6th	Old Penarthians B	1	3	10	10	34	39	485	495	38

SOUTH GLAMORGAN THREE

*Referee Points

Pos	Team	Ties Won	Ties Lost	Matches Won	Matches Lost	Games For	Games Against	Points For	Points Against	TOTAL POINTS
1st	Llanishen B	3	1	12	8	44	31	547	463	57*
2nd	Old Penarthians C	2	2	11	9	42	32	530	491	50
3rd	UHW A	2	2	9	11	35	39	485	522	45*
4th	Cowbridge C	2	2	9	11	35	41	493	538	43
5th	Cardiff University B	1	3	9	11	30	43	477	518	34

RUSS WATTS

Staff at the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth, meet the rugby stars.



Welsh rugby stars bring smiles to local hospice

TWO of the Welsh rugby stars who played against Italy in Rome on Saturday are helping to promote Marie Curie's Great Daffodil appeal.

The charity's hospice at Penarth recently had a visit from Jamie Roberts and Sam Warburton who met patients in the wards and in the day therapy.

One patient at the hospice, who is a great supporter of the team, is Jane Walker, and Jamie and Sam found a WRU jersey and calendar on her wall in her hospice room, which Jane then asked them to sign.

Her husband, Steve, said: "Jane has been feeling very unwell but the surprise visitors brought a smile back to her face."

To get involved with the Great Daffodil Appeal, or to support the hospice, telephone the fundraising office on 029 2042 6068.



Jane and Steve Walker meet Blues and Wales rugby stars Jamie Roberts and Sam Warburton.

NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Tales of a Bristol Channel pilot inspired forum speaker

WHEN involved as a teenager in sailing from Penarth, the speaker, Mr Dave Phillips, met an old Bristol Channel pilot and heard many tales that fired him to learn more about this interesting subject.

The fact that some of them, he later came to suspect, might not have been true, did not diminish his zeal!

One day, he saw a real pilot cutter on the slipway and decided to make the history of these fast and essential craft the subject of his college thesis.

Members of the forum were therefore conscious that they were learning about this subject from a master of his facts concerning the whole history of pilotage in the difficult and dangerous waters, that continue to this day to bring vital trade to ports on both sides of the Channel.

All who live in this area know of the huge tides, the currents, the rocks and the sand banks that make sailing on the Bristol Channel such a hazard. The need for

pilotage to get ships from the Atlantic up to the important port of Bristol had been recognised from medieval times.

There were often strained relations between the village of Pill and the city, but after a visit from the press gang during the Napoleonic Wars, the city authorities forbade future visits and protected the village that lived on its pilotage skills.

Dave even told us that a certain, James Ray, was the pilot who took Cabot's ship the *Matthew*, from the Avon and through the Channel on its journey from Bristol to discover America in 1497.

A little later a Lt. Bligh of the RN, later to become the captain of the *Bounty*, drew charts of the sandbanks and other hazards in the Channel and copies of these were shown to forum members.

The city and county of Bristol had been granted a charter by the Crown in the 15th century to control and licence all pilotage activities in the Channel and the fast and unique cutters were normally built there.

Although Bristol appointed and controlled all pilots until the 1860s the pilots themselves really, without exception, all came from the village of Pill downriver from

the great city and actually ships plying their trade on the Welsh side of the Channel.

Initially, they had to be supplied from Pill, so that small and remarkable village continued to thrive.

Eventually, the fast but old fashioned pilot cutters were phased out and replaced by steam boats, but it is interesting to note that Bristol pilots still had two sailing cutters operating in the 1950s, well within the lifetime of a few of our older members.

These wonderful boats are still being built today, for leisure purposes, at a cost of half a million pounds each, on the same stretch of water where Cabot's ship and his pilot's boat were each built so long ago.

At the next meeting on March 3, Mr Jonathan Hicks will speak on 'Barry and World War Two'.

Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. For further details, contact 029 2059 4881.

MAC TANNER.

The new season starts for the farming golfers



ABOVE: Veteran golfers John Davies, Mike Lee, Gwyn Evans and David Thomas ready to start a new season.

THE opening fixture of the new golfing calendar of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society took place last Thursday.

A total of 48 members and guests gathered at Southerndown Golf Club to compete for the Southerndown Cup, and the quality prizes supplied by generous sponsor, Mr Glyn Watts-Jones.

The testing conditions often endured on this well-maintained links course once again caused a few problems, particularly for those more used to playing on parkland courses.

The sound of a hunting horn controlling hounds out on exercise, which occasionally drifted across the course, also proved quite a distraction – especially to those with dual interests.

With nearly half of those competing playing on their home course, it

Call up for Cory!

CORY ALLEN has been selected to play for Wales' under-18 WRU team.

He is the only Vale player to be selected to play for his country at this level of rugby, and is a student of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

They have a mini 'Six Nations' coming up, and he played in a friendly game against Leicester Tigers in preparation for this. He is also in the Cardiff Blues Academy and has been informed that the Blues will be offering him a contract.

DMC

We welcome your news and views, reports and other items of interest - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk



Brian Jones wins another prize for his wife.



Keith Walker missed his first meeting since 2003.

Gwyn Evans complete the course.

Keith Walker's remarkable record of attending every society meeting since 2003 came to an end due to some cosmetic surgery, but all are hoping he will be available (and recognisable) for the society's next meeting at the Glamorganshire Golf Club, Penarth kindly sponsored by Hire One Ltd.

TMC

Geraint 'pedals' recycling message



ABOVE: Welsh champion cyclist Geraint Thomas has pledged his support to the Vale's recycling campaign.

WORLD champion and Olympic cyclist Geraint Thomas MBE is helping to raise the profile of recycling in the Vale.

He is urging local residents to champion the reduce, reuse and recycle way of living.

Dragons on top but fail to take their chances

**Barry Town
Cambrian and Clydach BCG** 1

THE final score does not really tell the truth of a game which, particularly in the second half, The Dragons dominated for long periods.

First blood went to Barry Town when a great through ball to Mike Hartley saw him cut inside and fire a shot past the Cambrian keeper.

Gradually Cambrian started to get into the game with Lee Matthews, a former Dragon, playing well in midfield.

The game ebbed and flowed with neither team creating chances until Cambrian were awarded a free kick.

Slack marking at the back allowed Jason Bertorelli a free header, which was promptly despatched past Dan Bradley.

Cambrian then hit two in five minutes when a Michael Jones shot was deflected past the stranded Barry keeper and another shot from Jamie

Rewberry, going well wide, hit Kurt Bettles and went into the net.

The second half belonged to Barry Town but they were unable to find that last pass to create a chance.

The Dragons will be disappointed with the result but will take heart from another good display which on another day would have got them at least a point.

On Friday night, The Dragons travel to Taffs Well for what is now an important game, with The Dragons only taking four points from their last eight games, since they beat Taffs Well in early November.

Dragons: Dan Bradley; Geraint Frowen, Kurt Bettles, Lewis Cosslett, Lewis James; Rob Blatchford, Sam Hartrey, James Saddler, Mike Hartley (sub Zaki Misbah); Josh Bell (sub Anthony Nagi), Ryan Jenkins. DC

Who wants to build what and where in the Vale?

Andrew Hayes – 2 Hollyrood Close, Highlight Park, Barry – Prune/trim silver birch.

Mrs Marilyn Gomanai – 31 Eagle Road, St Athan – Single storey flat roofed extension to the rear and Juliet balcony to bedroom at first floor.

Mr John Hawkins – Springfield (Llandow) Limited, Sutton Road, Llandow – Temporary consent for two years for siting of residential caravan to accommodate horticultural worker.

Wolverhampton Tree Services – Old College Inn, Buttrils Road, Barry – Removal of limbs away from building.

Mr Graham Wright – 15 Chantry Rise, Penarth – Extension to the front and rear of the property, erection of a new garage in rear garden, loft conversion with dormer to rear of property.

CPMS – Land adjacent to the A48, grass verge adjacent to McDonalds Restaurant, Culverhouse Cross, Wenvoe – Three sided internally illuminated totem sign, with only the letters to illuminate.

Mr K Singhal – Land at Rhiwau, Old Port Road, Wenvoe – Renewal of application 06/0236/FUL – alteration to Old Port Road.

Mr Mike Clare – 1 Augusta Road, Penarth – Extend/lift height of roof along full ridge length, altering angle to roof and building up part of the rear elevation. External walls to incorporate extended first floor across foot print of existing domestic dwelling.

Mr Chris John – 75 South Road, Sully – Creating habitable space above existing single storey annex building to form ancillary domestic accommodation and external alterations.

Mrs Lynette Williams – Land to the south east of Wyndham Park

Cowbridge under-7s leave it late to snatch win over Wanderers

COWBRIDGE Wanderers in the third under-7s squad was down to 15 for this hastily re-arranged fixture against Glamorgan Wanderers.

Wanderers arrived with a combined under-7s and under-8s team, as they obviously had the same pressures and looking at the size of them, it appeared that most were of the older age group;

However, their coaching team very fairly mixed the team up so as to make it as fair a contest as possible.

Things started badly for the Cowbridge boys when the Wanderers ran in for a try practically from the kick-off, but the boys rallied and played with the best team effort seen this year.

Reuben Davies, with his characteristic strong running, levelled the scores and then grabbed a further two for a first quarter lead.

The second quarter saw James Jones score his first try for Cowbridge, which mitigated the three scored by the Wanderers.

Two tries from Archie Lloyd and one from Harry Treherne equalled those scored by

against a largely older team, played with a great attitude on both sides.

Squad: Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Henri Cairns, Iolo Davies Reuben Davies, Ethan Francis, Akka Guwy, James Jones, Arcie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Rhys Pritchard, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Harry Treherne.

Under-11s, Pontypridd (away) **COWBRIDGE** under-11s headed to the Rhondda Valley to tackle Pontypridd.

Morgan Gore got things going with one of his trademark accurate kick offs, allowing Bevan Howells to gather and drive deep into Ponty territory.

The early action saw Cowbridge dominate territory and the front five of Jake Griffiths, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Jac Roberts and Sam Corkill were superb as they constantly won in the contact area.

Ian Lewis and Rhys Bradshaw linked well to allow Bevan Howells and Morgan Gore the space to penetrate the Ponty midfield.

On several occasions Luke Beattie and Max Cunningham made good ground, while makeshift full back Max Lucas drove powerfully with ball in hand.

The inevitable score came as Morgan Gore slipped a tackle and outstripped the defence.

As play moved deep into Ponty territory, Ian Lewis fed Rhys Bradshaw, who slipped a lovely pass to Bevan Howells, who powered over in the corner.

For the final third, Sam Corkill was outstanding as he constantly put his body on the line defending against much bigger opponents, while Jac Roberts was always on hand to steal the opposition ball.

The much smaller Cowbridge backs also played their part in a huge defensive effort with Ian Lewis, Rhys Bradshaw, Bevan Howells and Morgan Gore refusing to take a backward step.

Evan Williams raced over for the final try of the match, for a final score of **Pontypridd 0 Cowbridge 21**.

Our thanks to all the players, coaches and supporters from Pontypridd for their warm welcome and a very tough morning of rugby.

Squad: Bevan Howells, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ian Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, Luke Beattie, Max Cunningham, Max Lucas, Morgan Gore, Rhys Bradshaw, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

MTL



MEDALS GALORE!

LEFT:
Some of the
medal winners
from the Bridgend
County Swim
Squad who
competed in
Newport.

Swim success for Bridgend

BRIDGEND County had a great two weekends in the East Wales championships in Newport.

Bridgend swimmers who have been nurtured through the scheme won 24 golds, 32 silver and 18 bronze, and more than 90 per cent were personal bests.

Gold medallists were William Watkins, William Watkins (five), Helen

Fussey (four), Cameron Jones (three), Katie Rees (two), Ffion Wareham (two), Bethan Sloan (two), Josh Thomas (two), Owen Leary (two), Emilie James and Lily Hines.

There were 20 swimmers who won other medals in the competition, and records were broken by Helen Fussey and William Watkins.

The 11-and-under Bridgend

swimmers were strong, with up to five swimmers out of a possible eight making finals and gaining medals.

If you would like to be part of this club, then come along for a trial at Ynysawdre, Pyle, Pencoed or Maesteg pools.

Training times can be found on the Bridgend County swim squad website www.swimbridgend.co.uk or information is given at the pool.

PL

Shortly after that, the squad

</div

Sports prove to be the Athletic's white knight

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC under-11s
BRIDGEND SPORTS

THE morning started off gloomy and matters got worse when the Ath found out that Nelson weren't turning up.

The boys played a practice match and then the Sports offered to play us after their fixture against Treorchy.

Although a few Sunday roasts were becoming overcooked, everyone was keen to play and the match started under clear blue skies.

The early part of the game was even and both sides tackled hard and fought hard at the breakdown.

The Sports broke away and looked certain to score, but a last-ditch tackle from Joe Patterson saved the situation. Joe's tackle was adjudged high and the Sports took a quick tap, only for Joe to intercept and sprint 80 metres to open the scoring.

The Ath then played some good rugby and the ball was passed along the back line only for Drew to ground it just short of the line.

The forwards also played well and some good drives were rewarded when Rhys powered over to make the half time score 10-0 to the Ath.

The rest of the squad

v

came on for the second half which meant a lot of changes and a few boys playing out of position.

The Sports attacked strongly from the kick off, and with the Ath's new line-up still adjusting to their positions, scored to reduce the deficit. The Sports drove upfield from the restart and pressed for the equaliser but some tremendous tackling kept them at bay.

Tom Zielinski became the first blood replacement for the Ath, meanwhile, on the field, the Ath had stemmed the flow and were now taking the game to the Sports.

The game ended with the Ath running out winners by 10-5.

It was difficult, but the men of the match were Morgan, for leading the resurgence in the second half, and Iwan – for having a good game in the unfamiliar position of outside centre; well done boys.

This was a very pleasing and hard fought win, with every member of the squad playing their part. A very big 'thank you' to the Sports players and coaches for hosting us at the last minute – it's great to see two local rivals helping each other out and playing a very good game of rugby in a great spirit.

LG

PORTHCAWL UNDER-15s BEAT GILFACH GOCH

PORTHCAWL under-15s 26
GILFACH GOCH 7

PORTHCAWL anticipated a difficult game after only just managing to win the away fixture earlier on in the season.

Unfortunately, Gilfach only arrived with 13 players so Porthcawl had to field the same. However, this suited the young Seaweeds who used the extra space to run in four tries to one against.

Full-back Ollie Banner started off the scoring with a barn-storming run down the wing to score a converted try.

Gilfach Goch responded well from the kick-off and came close on several occasions.

Porthcawl were always dangerous on the counter-attack and after a weaving run by

Tondu under-11s work hard for Hirwaun victory

TONDU under-11s rolled into Hirwaun for what turned out to be a forwards dominated affair.

Tondu kicked off and went 7-0 down immediately, as seemingly unaware that the game had started, the Tondu players looked on as Hirwaun ran in for the easiest of scores.

Soon after Hirwaun doubled their advantage with barely five minutes played.

Tondu scored a try of their own, with Garryn Thomas charging over from close range; the try was converted by Josh Evans.

It was now Hirwaun's turn to doze off, and this allowed Tondu to score four tries before half time.

Ryan Kershaw, James Mayne, Garryn Thomas, followed by Tyler Davies, scored and all tries bar one were converted by Josh Evans. The half-time score was 14-33 to Tondu.

Hirwaun duly opened the second half scoring with a length of the field try to close the gap to 21-33.

Tondu responded with a try forged in the forwards and finished in the backs; well done boys.

The forwards won the ball enabling Ben Rich to snipe around the

Ath under-13s are kitted out!



ABOVE: Bridgend Athletic under-13s are pictured with sponsor, Mr Chris Mordecai of Pen-y-Bont Financial Services.

Phoenix grab historic win

PENCOED PHOENIX 22
WAUNARLWYDD 12

PENCOED Phoenix earned a hard fought victory over Waunarlwydd in their first-ever game in Division 1 West.

Although Tondu started slowly, they rallied to put in a business-like performance, all the more pleasing as many players featured out of position – two forwards debuted in the backs as some player were absent with injury. Final score Hirwaun 21, Tondu 54.

T e a m : G a r r y n Thomas, Tyler Davies, Ryan Kershaw, Ryan Jones, James Mayne, Ben Rich, Josh Evans, Morgan David, Shannon Price, Callum Button, Ioan Thomas and Michael Batters.

DM

Bryncethin under-9s show steel

BRYNCETHIN under-9s played away at Maesteg Welsh's ground, where they played two games.

The first game was played against Maesteg Welsh, which saw Bryncethin put up a great fight in defence. We saw some fantastic team spirit from this young side, and confidence was high, as Mason Jones went over the try line.

There was great improvement displayed, especially from Kane Walters. However, overall best performance and player of the match was awarded to Dafydd Baker.

Final score saw Maesteg take the victory, 2-1.

The second game saw Bryncethin play against Treherbert. The match got underway and saw another great performance from the tired youngsters, as the first half came to an end with a one-all draw.

Further tries were scored by Porthcawl's Jon Lodwig and Jacob Thomas, and with three out of four conversions, Jim Needs added six points to the overall tally.

Special thanks are due to referee Steve Richmond, who turned up on short notice to control the game.

CW

Mason Jones over the line to score another superb try.

Final score: 3-2 to Treherbert.

Team: Kathryn Pritchard; Mason Jones; Thomas Painter; Geraint Richards; Lloyd Costigan; Dafydd Baker; Billy Sinclair; Dylan Hill; Kane Walters.

RS

Local boys are called up for Wales Rugby League

A TOTAL of eight local lads have been included in the Wales under-16 schools rugby league squad, after an open trial day that saw a bumper attendance of more than 100.

The squad have two matches this year against the old enemy, England, with a welcome return to the Good Friday test match that has seen some memorable games over the last few years.

The boys will now begin preparations under the watchful eye of a new coaching team headed up by

based Panthers rugby league team. They are: Chris Bowler, Lewis Morgan, Levi Quirkie, Connor Farrer and James Little.

Wales Rugby League's head of performance, Dan Clements, said: "To see so many players turn up and trial for an opportunity to play shows the passion for the game in Wales is bigger than ever."

"We are extremely pleased with the squad that has been assembled and it shows that the pathway in Wales is now thriving, with the high performance unit already starting to bear fruit."

Another five come from the Pontyclun-

Young athletes perform well in competition

CONGRATULATIONS and well done to three Bridgend athletes who represented Wales at the beginning of February.

On Saturday, February 5, Ffion Price and Sam Longville travelled with the Welsh cross country team to Dublin to compete in the Celtic Cross Country race. Teams from Wales, England, Ireland and Scotland travelled to Dublin to compete in this very prestigious event.

The conditions on the course were horrendous, with ankle deep mud almost all the way around the course, coupled with a very strong wind and landing planes coming in at all sorts of unusual angles, making this a competition to remember.

Under-20 girl Ffion had strong competition in the race and between that, the conditions and a fall, she gave a sterling performance, finishing 12th, just four places behind one of her team mates. Ffion's position helped to secure a second place for the team.

Sam (Under-17B) also had a magnificent race, pulling through the finish line in 11th position, helping to secure his team a second place.

Lora Roberts competed in the Welsh Schools International Combined Events competition which was held at Kelvin Hall Indoor Arena, Glasgow. Lora also competed against teams from England, Ireland and Scotland.

On Saturday, February 19, Bridgend athletes travelled to Prifysgol Glyndwr University, Northop, Flintshire to compete in the Welsh Cross Country Championships 2011.

Athletes from all over Wales attended the prestigious Welsh cross country event and, true to form, Bridgend's distance runners performed with outstanding brilliance.

The first race, the under-13 girls 2,800m run was won by last year's winner Rosa Yates. Seren Allin crossed

the line in second place, just six seconds behind Rosa and Bridgend's third competitor, Courtney Lock, finished in 12th place.

With 32 runners in the race, all three girls performed superbly.

Danyaal Mohamed was the only Bridgend athlete to compete in race 2, which was the under-13 boys 2,800m run. Danyaal finished in an outstanding eighth place out of 21 competitors.

Three Bridgend athletes ran in race 3, which was the under-15 girls 4,280m run. Jazmine Briganti and Megan Osborne were neck and neck at the finish, fighting for 13th and 14th positions. Jazmine just pipped Megan, finishing just two seconds in front of Megan in 14th place. Bridgend's third runner, Nia Ward, finished strongly in 20th position.

James Hunt and Lewis Jones ran the tough 4,280m under-15 boys race. James, who was 10th in last year's event, finished strongly in third place with a time of 15.08 minutes which was just 13 seconds behind the winner, Rhys Granville from Carmarthen.

Lewis, who is currently number 4 in the UK for his 800m time, completed the race just 10 seconds behind James, finishing in fourth place.

The next race was the under-17 men 5,880m run, which had 22 competitors. These runners, from as far afield as Prestatyn, ran the grueling course excellently, and Bridgend's Sam Longville was no exception; he finished in 14th place.

The last of the Bridgend Athletics athletes was senior man Rob Hunt. Rob ran in the senior mens 10,300m race, finishing in 34th place.

Well done to all these runners.

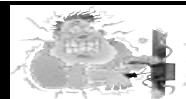
JR

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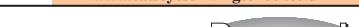
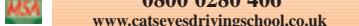
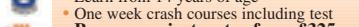
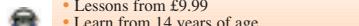
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Public Notice**VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL GRANTS TO COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

Applications are invited from COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (not individuals) seeking assistance for the financial year 2011/2012.

Applicants are required to complete an application form which is available from: Accountancy Section, Finance Dept., Civic Offices, Holton Rd., Barry. CF63 4RU. Tel: 01446 709250/186. Fax: 01446 701729.

Applications from or on behalf of national organisations, or other organisations, which are not based within the Council's area will not normally be considered.

Organisations in receipt of this funding last year will have already been sent the appropriate form for completion and need not respond to this advertisement.

Application forms are to be returned by Thursday, 28 April 2011.

Sian Davies,
Director of Finance, ICT & Property

**Charity Commission – CSD-1161C**

CHARITY: Sir Thomas Mansel Franklyn Trust
REFERENCE: C-202260

The Charity Commission propose to make a scheme to amend the trust of this charity.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

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Telephone - Mrs F Gandy, PA to the Headteacher: 01446 772311

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission Direct, PO Box 1227, Liverpool, L69 3UG, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/schemesdefault.aspx>

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W. A. Brown & Son**GEM Family Notices****Birthdays****Happy Birthday
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We hope you had
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Nancy Davidge**

March 6, 2011



wishing you a
Happy Birthday and
here's to many more!

From all your
friends at The GEM

Abby Price

Happy
18th Birthday
for March 9th
Loads of Love,
Mum, Dad,
Lewis & Connor
X X X

Myfanwy Ellis (Rene)

2/3/1921

Happy 90th Birthday

to a wonderful Mum,
Nan, Great Nan and
Great-Great Nan.
Have a lovely day.
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all the family. XXX

**Family Notices****Mary Candlish**

Tom and family wish to thank parishioners, friends and neighbours for their many cards, expressions of sympathy and words of tribute to Mary at this very sad time. Also Our Lady and St Illtud Ladies Guild, who served at the post Funeral arrangements.

Special thanks and appreciation to Rev Father W Isaacs for a very moving Requiem Mass; also the support to the family. Sincere thanks to Dr A Foreman, district nurse team, also doctors, Marie Curie nurses and support staff at Holme Hospice, together with doctors and staff at Velindre Hospital.

Thanks also to William James, Fonmon, for the funeral arrangements.

**Sarah Louise
BURT****The Brambles, Craig Penlyne**

The family of the late Miss Sarah Burt wishes to thank her many friends and colleagues for the messages of sympathy and condolences received over recent weeks. Special thanks to the Doctors and Nursing Staff at the Cowbridge Health Centre, Marie Curie Cancer Care and Velindre Hospital for the expert and very kindly care afforded Sarah throughout her long illness and particularly in her final days. Grateful thanks to the Reverend Glyn Austin for his support and words of compassion. Also, to Messrs. C and OJ Sendell, Funeral Directors for their expertise and professionalism.

**Trott
Heather**

Nine years on
March 6th.

On Bossington
mountain by the sea.
Always in my heart.
We all miss you so
much.

John & Family.
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CARDIFF & THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SPORTSHALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Poor turnout at event - but Vale athletes make their presence felt

ONLY three Vale schools – Cowbridge, Llantwit and Stanwell – sent pupils to this winter's Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' sportshall championships, a disappointing number given the normal strong support for local schools athletics competitions.

Last year, these championships were held, after school, on three afternoon sessions at Whitchurch lower school, but there were so many competitors at the under-15 boys and girls events that it was not possible to provide the pupils taking part with three attempts in field events.

As a result of that pressure, the decision was to split competition over four sessions – a move which slightly backfired because, although the two under-13 sessions were well supported with over 100 pupils at both, there were only 35 girls at the under-15 all-rounder, with just over 50 at the equivalent boys.

The under-15 competitions – for pupils in years 9 and 10 – have an all-rounder theme with competitors selecting one event out of two in three groups – for the boys, 2 laps or 4 laps, standing long jump or standing triple jump and shot or speed bounce. With one event change, vertical jump replacing the standing triple jump,

the groupings are the same for the girls.

In each event, pupils are rank-ordered on their performance and allocated points for their placing. The points from the three events are totalled to provide a ranking in the All Rounder competition. The aim is to encourage children to start thinking ahead to Combined Events competitions in the summer season.

Thanks to the encouragement from their staff over many years, pupils from Cowbridge School have a wealth of experience at this aspect of athletics so it is no surprise to find them finishing in top position in some events.

In the boys' competition, year-9 George Griffiths, the 2010 UK Sportshall under-13 standing long jump champion, claimed victory in that event with a 2.65 metres best. As a 11 metres plus performer with the 4 kg shot, he was clearly upset to find that he was only allowed standing throws in that event because, with no circle available, the competition had to be decided as a linear competition rather than in a sector. As a result, he was well down on past performances with only 9.20 metres, well behind his team-mate Rafi Sharzid, who made up in speed of technique what he lacked in size to claim an event win with a 10.50 metres put.

George, who recently won the under-15 (years 8 and 9) 60 metres and long jump at the Welsh Indoor championships at the National Indoor

Athletics Centre in Cyncoed, also had a non scoring attempt in the standing triple jump, landing at 8.16 metres, which was better than the 7.90 metres credited to event winner, year-10 Elis Wyn Benham (YG Glantaf).

In the Boys All Rounder, a win in the standing long jump, plus fifth in the shot and third in the two laps, was enough for young Griffiths to claim second spot behind year-10 Aymen Abdulla (Cardiff High).

In the equivalent girls' competition, Caitlin Allin and Sarah Lewis were joint fastest over the 2 lap sprint while Lili Evans produced the best vertical jump and Izzy Eddy Williams, the 2010 Welsh Sportshall under-13 standing long jump champion, was the best pupil in the speed bounce, and also finished second in the All Rounder competition. All four girls attend Cowbridge School.

At under-13, all pupils can compete in up to three individual events.

The undoubtedly top performer in the boys' competitions was Tom Trotman, the 2010 Welsh Sportshall under-13 4 laps champion. The Cowbridge year-8 finished top in the 2 laps, high jump and shot, with encouraging performances in all three.

Joining him as event winners were two more Cowbridge year-8 pupils, Rian Thomas, who showed that his encouraging form over the country, which has resulted in his call-up to represent Cardiff & the Vale Schools in the years 8 and 9 race at the Aviva Welsh Schools National cross-country championships at Brecon on March 16, has given him a good base for the 6 laps time-trial while Kristian Jones took the speed bounce.

Llantwit girls made their presence felt with two wins at under-13, Molly Brown setting the fastest 2 laps time and Tamara Pitt claiming the high jump title with a clearance at 1.30 metres. There were also three more titles for Cowbridge pupils with wins for Ela Emry (4 laps), Ellie Eddy-Williams (standing long jump) and Seren Allin (6 laps time-trial).

This was the first year that Stanwell pupils have competed and, although there were no Stanwell winners, the athletes will have gained valuable experience, and we look forward to them making major impact next winter.

All the pupils named as event winners will receive their award at the Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools

Track and Field presentation evening, which will probably be held in early September with Cardiff High as the likely venue.

Following these four championships, Miss Sarah Moore (Willows) and her team managers will select the teams of 12 pupils in both under-13 sections and 7 pupils at under-15 to represent Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan district at the Aviva Welsh Sportshall Finals, which will be held at Cwmbran Leisure Centre on Sunday, March 6.

RESULTS OF VALE PUPILS

Under-15 boys – 2

Laps, 3 George Griffiths (Cow) 20.3; 4 Scott Laken (Cow) 20.8; 14= Chris Powell (Cow) 21.3; 17= David Pain (Stan) 21.5; 22= Elis Vandyck (Stan) 21.7; 31 Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 22.5; 33 Myles Harding (Stan) 22.7; 35 Max Bramhill (Stan) 23.1; 37 James Parker (Stan) 23.4; 38 Tato Katsikeas (Stan) 23.5; 39 Matt Holder (Stan) 25.8.

4 Laps, 6 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 46.0; 18 Tom Geen (Stan) 49.7.

Standing long jump, 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 2.65; 5 Scott Laken (Cow) 2.44; 6 David Pain (Stan) 2.38; 10 Chris Powell (Cow) 2.31; 17 Elis Vandyck (Stan) 2.20; 22 James Parker (Stan) 2.14; 26 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 2.11; 37 Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 1.96; 41 Tato Katsikeas (Stan) 1.90; 43= Myles Harding (Stan) 1.84; 43= Stavros Katsikeas (Stan) 1.82; 46 Matt Holder (Stan) 1.74;

Standing triple jump, 2 Ben Tanner (Stan) 5.76; 6 Zac Dyer (Stan) 5.47; 7 Dafydd Manley (Stan) 5.42; 10 Nicholas Rees (Cow) 5.26; 16 Sam Aston (Cow) 4.68.

Shot (4 kg), 1 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 10.50; 5 George Griffiths (Cow) 9.20; 10 Riyal Auchbarally (Stan) 8.80; 16 James Parker (Stan) 8.10; 18 Matt Holder (Stan) 7.90; 19 Scott Laken (Cow) 7.60; 21 Chris Powell (Cow) 7.40.

Speed bounce, 6= Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 70; 13= David Pain (Stan) 69; 15= Tato Katsikeas (Stan) 68; 20= Myles Harding (Stan) 64; 22= Elis Vandyck (Stan) 63; 29 Stavros Katsikeas (Stan) 59; 30 Tom Geen (Stan) 56; 31 Max Bramhill (Stan) 46.

All-round points competition – 2 George Griffiths (Cow) 288; 12 Scott Laken (Cow) 249; 16 Rafi Shirzad (Cow) 240; 19 David Pain (Stan) 231; 24 Chris Powell (Cow) 215; 33 Elis Vandyck (Stan) 181; 40= James Parker (Stan) 156; 40= Fraser Hodgkins (Stan) 152; 43= Max Bramhill (Stan) 152; 47 Riyal Auchbarally (Stan) 114; 48= Myles Harding (Cow)

(Stan) 111; 50 Matt Holder (Stan) 100.

Under-13 boys – 2

Laps, 1 Tom Trotman (Cow) 21.3; 6= Nathan Robson (Cow) 22.5; 8= Kwabena Fordjour (Stan) 22.6; 8= William Gale (Stan) 22.6; 10= Scott Thomas (Cow) 22.7; 17= Tom Collins (Stan) 23.4; 17= William Gale (Stan) 23.4; 21= Dan Oddy (Cow) 23.5; 21= Harri Thomas (Cow) 23.5; 29 Harrison Stephens (Cow) 23.9; 30= Will Marsh (Stan) 24.0; 34 Josh Lewis (Stan) 24.1; 42= David Flanigan (Stan) 25.0; 44 Tomos Marsh (Stan) 25.3; 47 Ben Tanner (Stan) 25.7.

4 Laps, 5 Kristian Jones (Cow) 48.6; 6= Kwabena Fordjour (Stan) 49.4; 8= Alex Love (Cow) 49.6; 21= Josh Lewis (Stan) 53.0; 36 Tomos Marsh (Stan) 59.2.

6 Laps, 1 Rian Thomas (Cow) 76.2; 2 Ellis Rosser (Cow) 77.3; 5 Spencer Robinson (Stan) 79.3; 8= Zac Dyer (Stan) 81.2; 11 Alex Langrish (Stan) 82.2; 12 David Flanigan (Stan) 82.3; 15 Will Marsh (Stan) 83.5; 21 Huw Bennett (Cow) 90.3; 23 Rhys Fford (Stan) 92.0.

Standing long jump, 2 Rian Thomas (Cow)

2.24; 4 Kwabena

Fordjour (Stan) 2.22; 6

Scott Thomas (Cow)

2.10; 7 Harrison

Stephens (Cow) 2.08; 13

Spencer Robinson (Stan)

2.00; 14 Dan Oddy

(Cow) 1.98; 15 William Gale (Stan) 1.98; 18 Alex Lowe (Cow) 1.96; 26 Tom Collins (Stan)

1.90; 27 William Brown (Stan) 1.90.

Standing triple jump, 2 Ben Tanner (Stan) 5.76; 6 Zac Dyer (Stan) 5.47; 7 Dafydd Manley (Stan) 5.42; 10 Nicholas Rees (Cow) 5.26; 16 Sam Aston (Cow) 4.68.

High jump, 1 Tom Trotman (Cow) 1.40; 8 Nicholas Rees (Cow) 1.10; 10= Huw Bennett (Cow) 1.10.

Vertical jump, 3= Ellis Rosser (Cow) 42; 11

Alex Langrish (Stan) 38;

12 Scott Thomas (Cow)

37; 16= Zac Dyer (Stan)

34; 16= Alex Love

(Cow) 34; 20 Sam Aston (Cow) 32; 24 Edwards

Couzens (Cow) 24.

Speed bounce, 1

Kristian Jones (Cow) 50;

2= Dan Oddy (Cow) 49;

5= Will Marsh (Stan)

48; 11= David Flanigan

(Stan) 46; 14 Harri

Thomas (Cow) 45; 15=

Rhys Fford (Stan) 43;

15= Tomos Marsh (Stan)

43; 15= Alex Langrish

(Stan) 43; 15= Josh

Lewis (Stan) 43; 19=

Spencer Robinson (Stan)

42; 19= Rian Thomas

(Cow) 42; 24= Scott

Thomas (Cow) 40; 34=

Tom Collins (Stan) 35;

36= William Brown

(Stan) 31.

Shot (3.25kg), 1 Tom Trotman (Cow) 10.30; 7 Edwards Couzens (Cow) 249;

7.50; 10 Craig Boxall

(Cow) 6.90; 11 Ben

Tanner (Stan) 6.85; 14

Tom Collins (Stan) 6.50;

15 Nathan Robson

(Cow) 6.50; 16 William

Gale (Stan) 6.40; 18

Harri Thomas (Cow)

6.20; 20 Alex Langrish

(Stan) 5.85; 21 Harrison

Stephens (Cow) 5.85; 23

Sam Aston (Cow) 5.60;

27 Will Marsh (Stan)

4.85; 30 Tomos Marsh

(Stan) 4.30.

Under-15 girls – 2

Laps, 1= Sarah Lewis

(Cow) 23.2; 1= Caitlin

Allin (Cow) 23.2; 3

Alice Nottingham (Stan)

23.4; 4 Lili Evans (Cow)

23.5; 7= Georgia Lott

(Cow) 23.7; 11= Hannah

Gaskin (Cow) 24.1; 15

Natasha Johnson (Cow)

24.5; 17 Natasha

Johnson (Cow) 24.0; 19

Hannah Woodward

(Cow) 23.8; 20= Jordan

Carpenter (Cow) 23.3;

22= Erin Hayes (Lwt)

23; 25 Nancie Edwards

(Cow) 21.9; 26= Kate

Coker (Stan) 21.8; 26=

Phoebe Nixon (Lwt)

218; 29 Bethan White

(Cow) 210; 34 Megan

Brown (Cow) 142.

Under-13 girls – 2

Laps, 1= Caitlin

Allin (Cow) 23.2; 3

Alice Nottingham (Stan)

23.4; 4 Lili Evans (Cow)

23.5; 7= Georgia Lott

(Cow) 23.7; 11= Hannah

Gaskin (Cow) 24.1; 15

Natasha Johnson (Cow)

24.5; 17 Natasha

Johnson (Cow) 24.0; 19

Hannah Woodward

(Cow) 23.8; 20= Jordan

Carpenter (Cow) 23.3;

22= Erin Hayes (Lwt)

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Under-15 girls – 2

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(Cow) 23.2; 1= Caitlin

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Under-13 girls – 2

Laps, 1= Caitlin

Allin (Cow) 23.2; 3

Alice Nottingham (Stan)

23.4; 4 Lili Evans (Cow)

23.5; 7= Georgia Lott

(Cow) 23.7; 11= Hannah

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Cowbridge under-8s do well in their round robin games

C O W B R I D G E
under-8s played round robin games against Llantwit Major and Sully Sports at Llantwit Major on Sunday 27 February.

Game 1:

Llantwit Major 2 – Cowbridge 8

IN the first game, Cowbridge played a mixed Llantwit Major under-7s and under-8s team, who showed great commitment and effort despite their inexperience.

Cowbridge's strength, however, was teamwork which led to them overwhelming their opponents.

What was particularly enjoyable about this game was the fun that was clearly being had by the children involved.

There were numerous excellent passing movements by the Cowbridge boys, some of whom are showing huge improvement, notably Sam Coates and Harry Holtam, who scored his first try and then went on to score another.

Special mention to Tom Johnson for his three tries; other try scorers were Elis Howell, Dewi Williams, Sam Coates and Harry Holtam (two).

Team: Sam Coates, James Gilvear, Matthew

Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Harry Holtam, Elis Howell, Tom Johnson and Dewi Williams.

Game 2:

Llantwit Major 4 – Cowbridge 7

C O W B R I D G E played Llantwit Major's under-8s in the second game.

Conditions were horrendous, and both teams were very evenly matched.

The difference between them was the contribution made by Jake Williams, who scored five tries.

A little more teamwork and a stronger defence would lead to a marked improvement but the boys were affected by the conditions.

Tries: Oliver Jarman (two) and Jake Williams (five)

Team: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jestyn Owen and Jake Williams.

Game 3: Sully 6, Cowbridge 4

HAVING only had time to put tracksuits on, this team was required to play Sully Sports while the above team played Llantwit Major.

Cowbridge ran in the first try straight from the kickoff with Owen Godsall crossing the line after receiving the ball from the kick off.

Cowbridge didn't have it all their own way, however, and the scores were never more than a try apart until the very end of the game. Iwan-Thomas Bartle crossed the line following a good passing sequence from Cowbridge, and with both teams suffering from the cold, Dewi Williams showed good strength in crossing the line from a fifth tag restart close to the Sully line.

This brought Cowbridge back level at half time with the score at 3-3.

Cowbridge crossed the line on a number of occasions during the second half; however only one try was awarded with James Gilvear closing Cowbridge's account with a fourth try and bringing the score level at 4-4.

Some very cold and wet players on both teams resulted in Sully scoring two further tries before the referee blew up for the end of the game.

Tries: Owen Godsall, Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Dewi Williams and James Gilvear.

Team: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, Harry Holtam, Elis Howell, Tom Johnson and Dewi Williams.

JS and GW

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIORS PULL AWAY WITH STRONG SECOND HALF

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-10s welcomed Sully, coming off the back of two near losses to Pentrech and Glamorgan Wanderers.

The boys started well with Mason Richardson, debuting at scrum half after being drafted in from his wing position, making an immediate difference.

Flying fullback Iwan Robinson-Booth glided his way through the Sully defence to put the first points on the board and also converted his try.

Poor defence let Sully put points on the board but a quick ball from a Dylan Holloway run saw Owen Hodge bolster his way through to score seconds before the whistle; conversion missed.

Llantwit played really well in the first half but the result didn't reflect the first half performance.

Debutant Brandon made line breaks and caused Sully problems, Joss Harris sent the visitors backwards with the ball in hand, and Dylan Chamberlain caused the opposition problems with his speed, but it wasn't quite enough and the half time score was 12-7.

In the second half, Llantwit brought on Owen Evans, Liam

Palmer, Max Greve, Dom Henson, William Cummings-Jones and Luc Williams, who made an instant impact.

It started with a monstrous kick off by Dom and a dropped ball from the visitors saw William turn the ball over and present it to half back Max, who, with a quick look, sent the ball to the backs and saw Luc Williams score a perfectly executed try. The

conversion was missed.

Llantwit kicked off once again with Dom's big boot, Luc and Liam chased the ball down and the Sully boys completely missed the ball.

It bounced perfectly into Luc's hands for his second try, which Iwan converted.

Llantwit then really started putting pressure on the Sully side, and Luc scored yet another try which Iwan converted.

Squad: Joss Harris (captain), Dom Henson, Bruno Jeziorski, Jou Guerreiro, Joshua Dunn, Dylan Holloway, Dylan Chamberlain, William Cummings Jones, Brandon, Mason Richardson, Max Greve, Owen Hodge, Iwan Robinson-Booth, Liam Palmer, Luc Williams, Owen Evans.

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MAZDA 2 TAMURA

Mazda Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: Mazda2 1.3 5dr Tamura

36 monthly payments	Mazda Deposit Contribution [‡]	Dealer Contribution [‡]	On the Road price	Customer deposit	Amount of credit	Interest charges	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	Annual mileage	Excess mileage charge per mile	Duration of agreement (Years)	Fixed rate of interest	Representative APR [§]
£159	£750	£350	£11,584.69	£1,806.80	£9,096.89	£1,222.06	£4,894.25	£13,226.75	9,000	14.9p	3	3.04%	5.9% APR [§]

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the upgraded Mazda2 range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 67.3 (4.2). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 146 - 110.

All offers for retail sales & subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 4 January and 31 March 2011. Offers may be varied and withdrawn at any time. *5.9% finance available over 3 years and 5.0% finance available over 2 years on all upgraded Mazda2 models. [†]Mazda deposit contribution available on upgraded Mazda2 1.3 and Tamura models when financed on Mazda personal contract purchase and only valid until 28 February 2011. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) Return - Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retailer Pay the Optional Final Payment to keep the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. [‡]Guaranteed Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services PPL (SP) Services offer available on upgraded Mazda2 Tamura and Tamura models with Mazda Personal Contract Purchase finance only. 3 year finance agreement available with 3 years complimentary servicing. [§]3 year finance agreement available with 3 years complimentary servicing. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only at a participating Mazda Authorised Dealer. Terms & conditions apply. [^]36 months. All upgraded Mazda2 models available with VAT at the equivalent of 17.5%. Mazda VAT offer applies to the current retail list price and excludes the first registration fee, road tax and all factory fitted and dealer fitted options that will be charged at the standard 2011 VAT rate, currently set at 20%. Model shown: Upgraded Mazda2 1.3 5dr Tamura, 07/11 £11,585. Model shown includes: metallic paint (£200). On the road price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 month road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European roadside assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. [†]Test & fees subject to applicant status and availability.



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MAZDA 3 TS

Mazda Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS

36 monthly payments	Mazda Deposit Contribution [‡]	Dealer Contribution [‡]	On the Road price	Customer deposit	Amount of credit	Interest charges	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	Annual mileage	Excess mileage charge per mile	Duration of agreement (Years)	Fixed rate of interest	Representative APR [§]
£199	£1,500	£950	£15,229.79	£2,485.50	£10,714.29	£1,399.71	£4,950.00	£17,049.50	12,000	14.9p	3	3.04%	5.9% APR [§]

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda3 range (excl. MPS): Urban 26.7 (10.6) - 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 46.3 (6.1) - 72.4 (3.9), Combined 37.2 (7.6) - 64.2 (4.4). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 176 - 117.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 15 February & 31 March 2011. Offers may be varied & withdrawn at any time. Terms & conditions apply. *5.9% finance available over 3 years on all Mazda3 models. £1,500 Mazda deposit contribution and £950 dealer deposit contribution available on Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS petrol when financed on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are three options: (i) Return - Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retailer Pay the Optional Final Payment to keep the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. 18 or over. [‡]Guaranteed Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services PPL (SP) Services offer available on all petrol Mazda3 models (excluding MPS) available with VAT at the equivalent of 17.5%. VAT offer applies to the current retail list price only. First registration fee, road tax and all factory fitted and dealer fitted options that will be charged at the standard 2011 VAT rate, currently set at 20%. Model shown: Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS, 07/11 £15,229.79. Model shown includes: metallic paint (£200). On the road price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European roadside assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. [§]Test & fees subject to applicant status and availability.

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ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

A BERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan is hoping that his nine-year-old chestnut gelding *Beshaba*, owned by Mrs Margaret Findlay, and who scored at Doncaster last week, will give him his first winner at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival.

Beshaba, who was brought down when travelling really well the last time he ran at Cheltenham, has a choice of races but is likely to run in the National Hunt Chase, a four mile race for amateur riders.

Meanwhile, it was nice to see Emily Jones, who hails from the Vale, win on *Captain Cool* at Wolverhampton last week.

Emily, who has also ridden winners over the jumps and between-the-flags, would have surely reached the top had she been given more support by owners and trainers.

Anyone looking for a rider should give Jason 'Awesome' Cook a call on 07912 359425. Jason, who won the national

novice point-to-point riders' championship in 2000, recently returned to the saddle after a five-year absence. He says that he found that working as a senior assistant at Evan Williams's Llancarfan yard – he left last September – didn't give him much time to compete in races.

The Brecon & Tal-y-bont Hunt hold their annual point-to-point races at Llanfryncach next Saturday (March 5). First race at 1pm.

TUDOR REIGNS COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor landed the men's open race on the Alan Hill-trained *Start Royal* at the Waveney Harriers Hunt Steeplechases at Higam last Sunday.

Another Welsh rider, Paul Tolman, won the intermediate race on Mr J McMahon's *Princess de Rome* at the South Pool Harriers meeting at Buckfastleigh.

Meanwhile at Market Rasen, *Spirit of Adisza* took the TurfTV Novices Hurdle for Abertyn's Tim Vaughan. The top-weighted favourite, ridden by Richard Johnson, won by 10 lengths from *TipToeAway*.

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03 53 SUZUKI Jimny 1.2 2-Dr Edition 3Dr Soft Top Convertible. In black with anthracite interior, CD, electric windows, alloy wheels, only 36,700 miles£4,995
02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles£9,995

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04	JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 SE Auto.	In sea frost silver with beige leather trim, 49,000 miles, 1 owner .	£6,995	
03	VW Beetle 2.0 convertible.	In ice blue, 52,000 miles, stylish 4 seater .	£6,995	
06	FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.	In silver, 39,000 miles with a/c, on offer at .	REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£5,995
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03	MAZDA MX5 1.8 Nevada	In met blue with grey leather sports seats, 52,000 miles, superb example .	£4,995	
02	MERCEDES C180 Elegance Auto.	In met-silver birch, 63,000 miles .	REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,995
56	SMART Four Two 700 Passion Automatic Convertible.	In silver with black leather, heated seats, a/c .	£4,695	
03	BMW 316i SE.	In steel blue, low mileage, local car at .	£4,695	
05	SMART Four Two 700, convertible.	In silver, 23,000 miles, auto, a/c, etc .	£4,495	
53	PEUGEOT 206cc 1.6 Convertible.	In silver, 31,000 mile example with full leather, a/c etc .	£4,495	
06	CHRYSLER PT Cruiser 2.4 Classic.	In met grey, 41,000 mile American classic .	£3,995	
53	SUBARU Impreza 2.0 GX Sport AWD Automatic.	In met blue, 45,000 miles, superb value .	£3,995	

SMALL, ECONOMICAL AND FAMILY CARS

07	TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 T Spirit.	Leather, air con, etc, gunmetal grey met .	£7,995
07	PEUGEOT 207 1.6TD Sport Estate.	In silver, 58,000 miles, panoramic roof, low road tax diesel .	£6,995
07	FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec Auto (New model).	In met blue, low mileage example in excellent condition .	£6,995
06	VW Beetle 2.0.	In met blue, 49,000 miles with a/c etc .	£6,995
59	TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 Platinum 5-dr Auto.	In silver, 10,000 miles, 1 owner .	£6,995
56	TOYOTA Avensis T3 2.0-4D 5-dr.	In sea mist silver, 73,000 mile diesel hatch at .	£6,495
07	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamic Auto	In met-burgundy, superb example with only 25,000 miles .	£5,995
07	RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr.	In met graphite, 21,000 miles with air con .	£5,695
54	FORD Focus 2.0 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr.	In electric blue, 73,000 miles, fantastic MPG .	£5,495
06	VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 Diesel Active.	In met blue, 42,000 miles, low insurance + road tax .	£5,295
58	CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SXi Estate Auto.	In met blue, 9,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty	REDUCED BY £500 TO
56	MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic.	In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles .	£4,995
05	FORD Focus 2.0 Titanium 5-Dr.	In black, 60,000 miles .	£4,995
04	TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3-S 5-dr.	In met blue, 73,000 miles .	£4,995
06	CITROEN Picasso 2.0 Desire Auto.	Blue, very desirable car, 38,867 miles .	REDUCED BY £800 TO
06	VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life 5-dr Automatic.	In met black, 53,000 miles .	REDUCED BY £500 TO
06	VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life	In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc .	REDUCED BY £500 TO
06	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Expression	In silver, low mileage example of this versatile model .	£4,495
05	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi SX 5-dr.	In light met blue, 67,000 miles, diesel economy at .	£4,495
06	HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 CDX 5-dr.	In black, 28,000 miles, superb example at .	£4,295
07	PEUGEOT 1007 1.4 'Delce'.	In met bronze, 29,000 miles, electric sliding doors etc .	£3,995
06	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr.	In electric blue, 61,000 miles with a/c, cd, alloys .	£3,995
55	VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Life 5-dr Auto.	In met red, 33,000 miles, fantastic value at .	£3,995
04	FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-dr.	78,000 miles with full leather trim .	£3,995
07	CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE.	In silver, low mileage example with low running costs .	£3,495
05	ALFA ROMEO 147 1.6 Lusso 3-dr.	In met blue, 56,000 miles, a/c, alloys .	REDUCED BY £1000 TO
51	VW Beetle 1.6.	In electric blue, 78,000 miles with cd etc .	£3,495
54	RENAULT Megane 1.4 Authentique 5-dr.	In met blue, 72,000 miles, 1 private owner with air con .	£2,995
53	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2SXi.	Met green, a/c, elec windows, very attractive car .	£2,995
03	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamic 3-dr.	In black, 68,000 miles, alloys, sunroof .	£2,995
91	VW Golf 1.8 Clipper convertible.	In white with navy soft top, owned by VW enthusiast .	£2,495
52	VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8LS 5-dr.	In silver, 83,000 miles, large family hatch .	REDUCED BY £200 TO

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Titanium 3-dr**



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**07 RENAULT Scenic 1.6
Dynamic Auto**



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Llandow Kart Club 2011 season

KARTERS ARE BACK IN ACTION

AFTER what felt like the most fleeting of breaks, Llandow Kart Club swung back into action with the opening round of its 2011 season on a cold and blustery Sunday in late February.

Some 63 hardy competitors, including a healthy number of new faces and returning novices, combined to represent nine classes, although some were merged on track to provide meaningful grids.

After sitting out the Celtic Championships that closed the 2010 campaign, the Bambino class made a welcome return and, despite a low turnout compared to some meetings last season, provided some close competition between Max Fenlon, George Alp-Williams and Alex Austin before the former came out on top.

Honda Junior featured just one more runner, but welcomed back Daniel Jones to provide Welsh and Celtic champion Lloyd Sealy with some competition. Out of action for the second half of 2010, however, Jones could not prevent Sealy from taking a clean sweep of heat and final victories, but did enough to come in ahead of novices Danny Griffiths

Report: CRAIG LLEWELLYN
PHOTO: HARDY RODDE

and Jack Hixon.

A combined field of 21 Cadets provided the biggest grid of the day, with Ryan Edwards and Brandon Patrick upholding Honda honour by sharing the heat wins before the group was split for separate finals.

Edwards duly returned to the front of the pack to take victory in the Honda class, with Hugo Holmes and Daniel Thomas completing the podium after early leader Patrick dropped to fourth at the flag.

The Comer class was won by Louis Griffith-Walker, from Lucas Wynne and novice Tom Rawlings, but only after Wynne had come out on top in two of the three heats.

Junior TKM and Minimax were similarly combined to make a bigger field, and continued to run together throughout the day. Ross Chell swept the six-kart TKM field, with Scott Morris and Yousaf Ashraf giving chase in every encounter, while Lewis Malin appeared set to do likewise in Minimax before his kart failed on the dummy grid ahead of the final.

The returning Hugh Jones took second in heat two, but was equally delighted to take fourth in the final as veteran Paul Saunders completed the podium.

The two remaining Rotax classes closed proceedings, with the seven-strong Junior category providing some close racing behind Macaulay Austin, who swept to four wins in as many races.

Josh Gray provided the closest opposition with a brace of second places – including one in

reigning Cadet champion gave a good account of himself by harrying Chell through the opening stages before settling for second on the road.

Novice Ellis Jackson, the sole Junior Blue runner, also found himself in the TKM/Minimax mix, but added a valuable signature to his licence after a clean weekend.

Edwards duly returned to the front of the pack to take victory in the Honda class, with Hugo Holmes and Daniel Thomas completing the podium after early leader Patrick dropped to fourth at the flag.

After some disappointing turnouts in 2010, the Honda Senior class gained strength with nine entrants, including a couple of novices. Without Chris Lipscombe to bother them, past and present club champions Gareth Lewis and Simon Evans shared the heat wins, before Evans eased to a six-second victory over his main rival in the final.

The returning Hugh Jones took second in heat two, but was equally delighted to take fourth in the final as veteran Paul Saunders completed the podium.

The two remaining Rotax classes closed proceedings, with the seven-strong Junior category providing some close racing behind Macaulay Austin, who swept to four wins in as many races.

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Ryan Edwards leads the Cadet class at the opening round of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 season.

the final – although both Craig Adam Berwick and Mooney made the most of a lap one off for reigning champion Chris Davis to complete the podium.

Wayne Stone found some stern opposition in the Max 177 class, but eventually overcame the challenge of Richard Phillips to claim victory.

RESULTS

BAMBINO – 1, Max Fenlon; 2, Alex Austin (Tony); 3, George Alp-Williams (CRG).

SENIOR HONDA – 1, Simon Evans (MS); 2, Gareth Lewis (MS); 3, Paul Saunders (7Kart).

JUNIOR ROTAX – 1, Macaulay Austin (Exprit); 2, Josh Gray (Tonykart); 3, James Johnson (CRG).

SENIOR ROTAX – 1, Josh Collings (CRG); 2, Matthew Dowers (Tonykart); 3, Craig Mooney (Intrepid).

ROTAZ 177 – 1, Wayne Stone (Tonykart); 2, Richard Phillips (CRG).

Abbi lands a winner

ABBI VAUGHAN, wife of Aberthorn trainer Tim Vaughan, landed the ladies' open race at the Albrighton Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Sunday with her seven-year-old bay gelding *Picaroon*.

The former winning steeplechaser is owned by Mrs Kate Smith-Maxwell and was ridden by Mrs Alex Dunn.

This Saturday, hunting enthusiasts will be flocking to Llanfrynnach in Brecon for the Brecon and Talybont Hunt Steeplechases; first race 1pm.

Barry under-8s 'try' very hard

Barry RFC under-8s

11

Llanishen under-8s

7

BARRY settled into the game straight away, and what a difference a year makes.

Last season, the visitors were too fast and too strong for the Barry team; how the tables have turned.

Playing with the slope in the first half, the home side ran in some very impressive tries from Z Fifield (two), J Roberts, I Maire Escott, C Saunders and Jacob.

The final try of the half saw young Jacob Escott, Fifeilid, Jacob and powering over the line J Couch.

from 15 yards.

In the second half, Barry put on a fine defensive display, as well as running in another five tries from J Roberts (two), E Galsworthy and C Saunders (two).

A number of players put a great shift in, getting first to loose ball, tagging, running and passing the ball with confidence in poor conditions. These were D Parry-Griphus, Roberts, R Rendal, Galsworthy, Saunders and Jacob.

The final try of the half saw young Jacob Escott, Fifeilid, Jacob and powering over the line J Couch.

LS

Penarth Computer Club

A TALK at Penarth Computer Club was billed as the best of free software and Kevin started by defining 'free software' and 'licence'.

It would appear that all is not as it is generally assumed to be. Software is the code that operates everything and has no physical body, as opposed to the hardware that it is possible to touch.

Firmware, is a kind of halfway house in that it refers to code that is coded directly into a

piece of hardware and is not intended to be frequently changed.

What is software? Operating systems control what the computer does.

Drivers control certain hardware and bridge between operating systems and that hardware (eg printers).

Programmes can be large applications such as Microsoft Office or Adobe Photoshop, or small programs for applications and minor duties.

The main licence types are: Paid - normal; Freeware - a licence to use without payment, usually for home use only; Free Software

XP. A show of hands showed a majority using Windows 7. Kevin then pointed out that no-one present owned a copy of either.

Microsoft's licence clearly states that they do not sell its products to customers. Customers purchase the right to use it "with agreements that define and govern how you may use the software".

The main licence types are: Paid - normal; Freeware - a licence to use without payment, usually for home use only; Free Software

totally unrestrained use or modification; Shareware/demoware – try before you buy, pay if you want to continue to use it; Nagware – no compulsion to buy a licence, but it nags you if you don't; Shovelware – Software that as a condition of use also insists on installing other packages and unwanted software that comes pre-installed on new computers; Adware – Software is essentially free but will have adverts either in the header or side of screen or they might pop-up during use. Payment removes the adverts.

There are other more obscure types that ask for a local postcard from you. Why provide free stuff? Some of it really is something for nothing. A programmer might do it just to show his skill or because the big corporations are not to his liking.

A good example of this is Open Office. It is free to download and will do most of the things that users want. The paid-for stuff will be able to do far more things that you may never need.

The best free software? Kevin runs most of the free programmes that are shown on our website. See penarthcomputercub.co.uk

We next meet on Tuesday, March 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm. There will be a short session on keyboard shortcuts and a talk on iPhone apps. Visitors welcome.

Local visitor, Francis Johnson, said:

"We are delighted with the lighting and setting of Y Llynfi Library and are really pleased that we have found another venue to show people our work close to Maesteg town centre to complement our annual larger exhibition."

Local visitor, Francis Johnson, said:

"Y Llynfi Library is a lovely venue to show these pictures. The paintings are all really varied and very good, well done."

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Fiat Ducato 35 Van 2.3i Ute 130 Multijet Medium Wheel Hi-Roof [L2H2]. £6955+VAT

FIAT Ducato 35 LWB 2.3i Crewcab with Tipper 120 in All Grey pre registered 60 plate. £17995+VAT

2008 '08 Nissan Primastar 2.0DCI 115 SE LWB Panel Van finished in Silver. £8995+VAT

2006 '06 Volkswagen Caddy 2.0TDI Euro 4 Van finished in White. £4995+VAT

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New venue for art society show



ABOVE: Maesteg Art Society members. From left to right: Jennifer Smith, Pat Jones holding her painting entitled 'The Old House', secretary Shirley Wells and Sally Joseph.

Maesteg Art Society is exhibiting work in the council-run Y Llynfi Library at Maesteg Sports Centre until Wednesday, March 30, Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10.30am-5pm.

Formed in 1984, the society meets once a week and each holds an exhibition in Maesteg Town Hall.

Society secretary, Shirley Wells,

HD

